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February 12, 2019

Chair Clem
House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2357

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

1000 Friends opposes HB 2357.

HB 2357 limits “standing” in land use decision appeals to those who live or own a business within 25 miles of the boundary of the local government that made the decision, and they must also have appeared before the decision maker in person at a local hearing, if one was held. This bill is contrary to the very core of Oregon’s land use program’s Goal 1, Citizen Participation, which “insures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.” It might also run afoul of due process requirements.

The impacts of many land use decisions, whether adverse or beneficial, do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries. For example, a land use decision may impact roads, streams, and even the housing market beyond the boundary of the locale of the actual decision. Some land use decisions have fiscal impacts on every Oregonian. Many Oregonians do not have the time, financial means, or physical ability to travel to a local hearing, whether they live 2 miles or 200 miles from the decision site. While perhaps not the intent, HB 2357 would also limit the ability of an out-of-town landowner who applies for a development and gets denied to appeal that local decision, if they are unable to attend a local hearing.

We urge you to oppose HB 2357. It is a big step backwards in our efforts towards inclusive and transparent public decision-making. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director