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May 8, 2019

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural resources

State Capitol

Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2790A (outdoor mass gatherings)

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports HB 2790A, which addresses outdoor mass gatherings. This bill represents a consensus that included input from counties with a variety of experiences with and handling of outdoor mass gathering applications. HB 2790A provides counties the option to require outdoor mass gatherings to obtain land use permits, and allows counties to charge a larger fee for approval of larger outdoor mass gatherings.

Outdoor mass gatherings are often sited on farmland, and can have significant, sometimes year-round, impacts to the land, water, and surrounding farm operations. However, because the current law does not clearly provide counties the option to treat these as land use decisions, they cannot consider those. HB 2790A provides counties the ability and flexibility to consider land use impacts from these gatherings and to collect adequate permitting fees.

We urge you to support HB 2790A. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy

Policy Director and Staff Attorney