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June 12, 2019

Chair Burdick and Members
Senate Rules Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

SB 1050

Dear Chair Burdick 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. We were intimately involved in the passage of Ballot Measure 49, and therefore strongly oppose SB 1050.

SB 1050 was recently introduced and was just scheduled for a hearing, providing virtually no notice or opportunity for the Oregonians who overwhelmingly passed Measure 49 to weigh in. Other bills, from all perspectives, introduced in this and past sessions have attempted to change Measure 49, and the legislature has been adamant that no changes would be made. Passing a major change in the waning hours of this legislative session calls into question that appropriate resolve.

SB 1050 would remove Measure 49's 10-year limitation on subsequent purchasers subdividing or partitioning property or establishing a dwelling authorized by a Ballot Measure 49 final order.

This bill undermines the compact that voters supported in Measure 49, by removing a provision that has been working for over a decade. Measure 49, including this key provision, was passed to recognize expectations of existing property owners, and provide certainty for farmers and others that there would be a finite number of dwellings and time during which any additional dwellings on resource lands would be built. HB 1050 would undo that.

We urge this Committee to decline to pass SB 1050 on. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Russ Hoeflich, Executive Director

Mike McCarthy, President, 1000 Friends Board of Directors