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June 24, 2020

President Peter Courtney and Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Chairs
Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020
900 Court Street NE
Room 453
Salem, Oregon, 97301

Sent via e-mail to: j1ss.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: HB 4212– Emergency Shelter Provisions

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the emergency shelter provisions in HB 4212. This legislative proposal would ease the ability to locate emergency shelters in all communities, enabling Oregon to more fully address the needs of many in our communities, so they may transition from being without a house to safe and affordable permanent housing. This bill is especially critical in the current challenges our communities face with COVID-19, which includes the need to provide physical distancing among those needing safe, healthy, and accessible emergency shelter.

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. Our work includes ensuring that the promise of Oregon's Goal 10, Housing, is implemented inside our cities and towns with policies that both encourage and require needed, diverse, and affordable housing choices for all. That encompasses the full range of housing needs, appropriately located, including emergency shelters.

1000 Friends was part of a diverse group brought together by Speaker Kotek during the February 2020 session that resulted in HB 4001C, which we supported. That bill has been largely incorporated into HB 4212, and we continue to support it. The need for additional emergency shelters is even more acute as we together face the challenges of COVID-19.

We support the emergency shelter provisions of HB 4212. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Kyle McCurdy

Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director

