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February 9, 2021

Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Housing
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2160 (Pendleton UGB)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2160. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

We support HB 2160. This bill allows Pendleton to participate in a pilot program previously passed by the legislature to allow two cities – a small one and a large one – to expand their UGBs by up to 50 acres if, pursuant to administrative rules, a substantial portion of housing units is dedicated to long-term affordable housing and the application meets other conditions. While several large cities were interested and two qualified to be “pilots,” no small city did, so the 2019 Legislature amended the original legislation to allow two large cities to participate. Bend and Redmond have started that process. However, now Pendleton – a small city – believes it can qualify and would like the opportunity. HB 2160 gives them that opportunity to apply.

The original bill contemplated that one pilot city would be “small,” because the challenges to small cities to provide affordable housing might be different than large cities, and the objective of the pilot project bill is to understand all the elements necessary to provide a significant amount of long-term affordable housing. Therefore, we believe it is appropriate to allow Pendleton to participate in this program. The pilot program will now be evaluated based on a small city and two larger cities.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director