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February 1, 2023

Co-Chairs Sen. Gorsek and Rep. McLain and Members
Joint Committee on Transportation
State Capitol
Salem, OR

Re: HB 2137

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2137. 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. 1000 Friends of Oregon has long been involved in land use and transportation issues.

1000 Friends opposes HB 2137. This bill would establish the Willamette River Bridge Task Force and charge it with “study[ing] strategies for the financing, construction and maintenance of an additional bridge crossing the Willamette River connecting Marion and Polk Counties in the Salem area.”

As with HB 2781, also before the Committee at this hearing, HB 2137 proposes creating an additional layer of transportation planning that is not needed. Marion and Polk counties and the cities in them, already do extensive, coordinated transportation planning pursuant to a long-existing state and federal law structure. There is no need for an additional entity to study this issue.

This is the time when Oregon should be focusing its transportation time, policies, and funding on increasing access to transit, safe walking and biking routes, and carpools.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director

