



Main Office • 133 SW 2nd Ave, Ste 201 • Portland, OR 97204
Willamette Valley Office • 454 Willamette St, Ste 213 • Eugene, OR 97401
Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528

February 14, 2023

To: Senator Kayse Jama, Chair, and Committee members
Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director

Re: SB 437 - Allowing production of food in planned community

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 437, which would allow production of food in planned communities despite

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.

SB 437 would allow homeowners and renters (with the approval of the homeowner) to grow and produce food on their lot, to the extent it is allowed under the relevant city or county laws, even if it is prohibited or restricted by the governing documents of a homeowners' association. This bill would affect planned communities and some subdivisions, which are primarily inside cities and towns.

1000 Friends supports this common sense statute. Raising vegetables, growing fruit trees, raising chickens and honeybees, and other similar activities on one's residential lot should be encouraged, not prohibited. It enables Oregonians to have access to inexpensive, healthy food. It connects people, and especially children, to how food is grown, an activity many families engage in. Many Oregonians, including Immigrants, grow familiar produce, herbs, and spices that they cannot find in local stores. Yet, we have heard of residents being prohibited from, for example, growing tomatoes and other vegetables in the front of their homes. Oregon has some of the best soils and climate in the world for growing food, and we should be encouraging, not prohibiting, it.