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March 14, 2017

House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2007

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Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2007. 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.

House Bill 2007 provides various ways to improve the ease and speed by which affordable housing projects are evaluated and approved inside urban growth boundaries (UGBs). We support the objectives of this bill and the direction HB 2007 is headed to streamline the provision of affordable housing. Goal 10 of Oregon's land use program requires jurisdictions to "encourage the availability of adequate numbers of needed housing units at price ranges and rent levels which are commensurate with the financial capabilities of Oregon households and allow for flexibility of **housing location, type and density.**" (Emphasis added.) Too often, we have looked to what seem to be politically easier answers of locating affordable housing at the edges or even outside of our cities and towns, where the land is initially cheaper because it lacks infrastructure and might not garner opposition. However, these locations do not meet the needs of *people* – who should be nearer to jobs, schools, and shopping to meet everyday needs.

1000 Friends appreciates Rep. Kotek's effort to take on this harder - but absolutely necessary- challenge to remove impediments to locating more housing and, in particular, affordable housing, inside our towns and cities. We have met with the Speaker's office on HB 2007, and look forward to working further with her office to achieve this.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Deputy Director