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February 17, 2019

Chair Taylor
Senate Committee on Workforce
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 114 and SB 202

Dear Senator Taylor and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports Senate Bill 114 and its complementary bill, SB 202. 1000 Friends 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. Senate Bill 114 represents the intersection of two issues on which we work closely: affordable housing and the economic health of Oregon's #2 industry – agriculture.

Senate Bill 114 would establish an agricultural workforce housing operations tax credit, designed to be focused on the operational aspects of preserving existing and providing additional on-farm housing. Eligible operating expenses include insurance, property management, repair and maintenance, resident services, and utilities that are necessary to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing to more of Oregon's agricultural workers and their families. SB 202 extends the sunset date for the existing tax credit for construction of agricultural workforce housing.

We urge the Committee to support Senate Bills 114 and 202. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director