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February 17, 2019

Chair Keny-Guyer  
Members of the House Human Services and Housing Committee  
State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 608

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Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 608. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice. Our work includes ensuring that the promise of Oregon's Goal 10, Housing, is implemented inside our cities and towns with policies that both encourage and require safe, accessible, and affordable housing choices for all. Specifically, Goal 10 requires that local land use plans:

“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.”

The land use program ensures that land is zoned to provide the diverse housing types needed by all Oregonians in the locations they need them – in walkable communities near schools, stores, and other services. Other state and local planning tools to make housing more affordable include requiring smaller and diverse housing types, quick residential permit processing, clear and objective design standards, and, in many places financial incentives and fee waivers for more affordable housing. The land use program recognizes that affordable and appropriate housing is needed by all Oregonians for the health of our communities, environment, economy.

However, many Oregonians living in rental housing do not feel secure that they will be able to call where they are living “home.” To ensure Oregon is a state where everyone has access to opportunity and a decent, stable, affordable place to call home, we need both the land use program and a program to ensure housing security and stability for the 40% of our friends, family members, co-workers, and other members of our communities who rent.

Therefore, we urge you to support SB 608, which would provide rent stabilization and tenant protections, so all Oregonians have one of the basic necessities to thrive. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

*Mary Kyle McCurdy*

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Deputy Director