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April 1, 2019

Chair Holvey and Committee Members
House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2974

Dear Chair Holvey and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon has long been involved in land use and transportation issues in the Willamette Valley. We appreciate Rep. Evans bringing forth a bill to address transportation challenges in the greater Salem region; they are difficult and multi-faceted. However, we ask that you table HB 2974. It focuses on one solution – creation of a bridge district. While one or more bridges over the Willamette River might be part of a regional solution, if so, and their number, location, funding, and impact must be evaluated as part of a more comprehensive approach.

Building any bridge will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. As we are trying to reduce our dependence on traffic throughout the region, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest in transit from the 2017 Transportation bill, and use multiple methods and technologies to manage traffic, we should take a more comprehensive approach to the transportation issues in this large region.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Policy Director and Staff Attorney