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February 21, 2020

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

Re: HB 4001, -7

Dear Chair Holvey and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the -7 amendment to HB 4001. This bill would ease the ability to locate emergency shelters in all communities and significantly increase funding for them, to enable Oregon to more fully address the needs of many of our fellow Oregonians, so they may transition from being without a house to safe and affordable permanent housing.

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 needed, diverse, and affordable housing choices for all. That encompasses the full range of housing needs, appropriately located, including emergency shelters.

We appreciate that Speaker Kotek brought together a diverse group to help refine the original bill, including the locations to provide for the expedited siting process established in the bill. The -7s allow emergency shelters to be located inside urban growth boundaries and rural residential areas. The locations must have adequate transportation so shelter residents may access to services, and be located in areas that are not at risk for natural hazards, such as floodplains, or pose a health or safety risk. This revision, along with revisions that ensure the emergency shelter operator is limited to local governments, local housing authorities, and organizations with demonstrated experience operating an emergency shelter, ensures these will be located and run to best serve the needs of those in need of emergency shelter. And thanks to the work this legislature did in 2019 in passing HB 2001 and HB 2003, Oregon will have more diverse and affordable permanent housing in across the state for all Oregonians.

We support passage of HB 4001, with the -7 amendment. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director