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May 7, 2021

Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair Committee Members
House Committee on Housing State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3322A – food production in planned communities

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3322A. 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.

HB 3322A would allow homeowners and renters (with the approval of the homeowner) to grow and produce food on their lot, to the extent it is allowed under the relevant city or county laws, even if it is prohibited or restricted by the governing documents of a homeowners' association. This bill would affect planned communities and some subdivisions, which are primarily inside cities and towns.

1000 Friends supports this common sense statute. Raising vegetables, growing fruit trees, raising chickens and honeybees, and other similar activities one's residential lot should be encouraged, not prohibited. It enables Oregonians to have access to inexpensive, healthy food and connects people, and especially children, to how food is grown. Many, including Immigrants, grow familiar produce, herbs, spices that they cannot find in local stores. Yet, we have heard of residents being prohibited from, for example, growing tomatoes and other vegetables in the front of their homes. Oregon has some of the best soils and climate in the world for growing food, and we should be encouraging, not prohibiting, it.

We encourage support for HB 3322A, and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director