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February 15, 2022

Rep. John Lively, Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4093 (Genuine Progress Indicator)

Dear Chair Lively and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 4093**. 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 4093 establishes a Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) structure for Oregon, which would provide a more comprehensive assessment of the economic and environmental health of Oregon and its residents than current measurements. The bill requires Oregon state agencies to collect data on Oregon's economic, social, and environmental gains and losses, which the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis would analyze and compile into an annual report on Oregon's Genuine Progress Indicator.

Standard economic metrics like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are currently used as a primary measure of economic health, but they are narrowly focused on such things as the exchange of goods and services, purchasing information, and the like. This limits the state's understanding of, and hence ability to address, many important factors that underpin the actual health of our communities, businesses, farms, forests, and ecosystems.

In contrast, the Genuine Progress Indicator can quantify such things as aspects of public health related to air and water quality, the costs of lack of affordable housing or lack of access to transit, progress or lack thereof in protecting working lands and natural resources, and more.

The Genuine Progress Indicator expands the data and tools available to state and local governments, enabling more comprehensive, equitable, and effective planning for community well-being. The nature of Oregon's land use planning program - which encompasses many issues, ranging from protection of forest lands and coastal resources to housing and infrastructure and takes a long term view - would greatly benefit from this expanded set of information.

We urge your support for HB 4093. Thank you.

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

Deputy Director