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February 15, 2023

To: Senator Sollman, Chair, and Members
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment

From: Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director

Re: SB 630

1000 Friends of Oregon appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support SB 630. 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.

While 1000 Friends does not have a position on the source of state financial support, we do find that the Abernethy Green Project is an appropriate pilot project for state support. Abernethy Green will include over 500 homes of diverse types, in a mixed-use development, inside an urban growth boundary. A portion of the homes will be affordable to those at 80% of medium family income for Clackamas County. Significantly, the state support sought is to complete environmental remediation of a former major regional landfill.

To us, this seems an appropriate use of state resources – to clean up and restore a large degraded landfill site that is well-located inside an urban growth boundary, to provide a large number of homes. We hope this can provide a model for similar state investments in cleaning up brownfields in already-urban areas to provide housing opportunities. We would like to see any state funding program tied to ensuring a meaningful portion of the housing is committed to long-term affordability.