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February 28, 2023

Rep. Maxine Dexter, Chair, and Members
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
State Capitol
Salem, OR

Re: HB 2001 -11

Dear Chair Dexter and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 2001, with the -11 amendment. This brings together two critical legislative components to address Oregon's housing crisis: immediate measures to address those experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness, and making structural changes in how local governments implement land use Goal 10, Housing to ensure we produce housing for all, in every neighborhood.

The -11 amendment includes the direct and innovative solutions for housing instability and insecurity from HB 2001, plus more. These include a focus on preventing youth homelessness; grants and loans to enable production of modular housing, which can be turned out and put in place quickly, with preference to produce homes for those displaced by natural disasters and for those of low and middle income; an agricultural workforce housing grant program; and a program for financing of predevelopment costs, including infrastructure, site acquisition, and technical assessments reports, for housing affordable to those of middle income for at least 25 years.

It also includes the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (OHNA), previously in HB 2889. This is a long overdue overhaul of the way the state and cities plan for and ensure that every community has accessible, affordable, and sufficient housing, well-located to support fair and equitable housing outcomes, environmental justice, climate resilience and access to opportunity.

Oregon's land use planning Goal 10 requires cities to plan for "adequate numbers of needed housing units at price ranges and rent levels which are commensurate with the financial capabilities of Oregon households and allow for flexibility of housing location, type and density." However, we have fallen far short of this - Goal 10 has not been robustly implemented at the local level or funded and enforced at the state level for decades.

HB 2001 -11 gets us back on the housing track. The OHNA methodology assesses total housing need, and by income category, at the state and local levels. It describes where there are gaps in meeting current and projected housing needs in every city. The OHNA method then ensures that it is pretty easy to build that needed housing. Cities over 10,000 in population must adopt

– and implement – Housing Production Strategies that are designed to meet the identified housing needs of that city. The OHNA also provides a system for holding cities and the state accountable for meeting those housing outcomes.

The OHNA program is about making sure that every Oregonian has the opportunity for accessible, affordable housing choices in every community.

We urge adoption of HB 2001 -11. 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