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March 7, 2023

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director

Re: HB 2506 - Siting behavioral health housing

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 2889, legislation related to behavioral health housing. 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 2506 would require residential facilities, supportive housing, community housing, and other types of behavioral health housing to be treated in the land use permitting process like other similar residential housing. This is a long-needed change to ensure that our communities provide safe, accessible and affordable housing for all without discrimination based on who its residents might.

We urge you to support HB 2506. Thank you for consideration of our comments.