



Main Office • 340 SE 6th Ave • Portland, OR 97214
Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528

February 13, 2024

To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
From: Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director

Re: HB 4155 – Infrastructure study

1000 Friends of Oregon supports HB 4055, which directs the Oregon Business Development Department to study infrastructure financing in Oregon and evaluate tools the state could use to positively impact infrastructure and housing costs. The department would be required to report its findings to the Legislative Assembly.

1000 Friends of Oregon is a statewide nonprofit organization. We have worked with Oregonians for 50 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choices.

Among other statewide planning goals, we focus on Goal 10, Housing, and Goal 11, Public Facilities & Services. Affordable and reliable basic infrastructure – sewer, water, sidewalks, roads – is critical to livable homes and communities. Infrastructure costs are the largest barrier to housing development and affordability, and yet the costs cannot be met with local resources alone. While some state and federal resources are available, they are not sufficient and many smaller cities lack capacity to obtain them.

We appreciate that HB 4155 lays out a broad scope of tools, topics, and methodologies to evaluate and bring back to the legislature to determine next steps. It is clear that current mechanisms are not enough, resulting in insufficient and unaffordable housing and often inadequate infrastructure.

Please pass HB 4155. Thank you for consideration of our comments.