



Sen. Khanh Pham, Chair
Committee Members
Senate Committee on Housing & Development
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 59 – food production in planned communities

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 59. 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.

SB 59 would allow homeowners and renters to grow food, including in gardens and through beekeeping and raising hens, where they live to the extent it is allowed under the relevant city or county laws, even if it is prohibited or restricted by the governing documents of a homeowners' association.

1000 Friends supports this common sense statute. Raising vegetables, growing fruit trees, raising chickens and honeybees, and other similar activities at home should be encouraged, not prohibited. It enables Oregonians to have access to inexpensive, healthy food. It connects people, and especially children, to how food is grown. Many, including immigrants, grow familiar produce, herbs, and spices that they cannot find in local stores. Growing some of one's own food is an economical way to ease increasing grocery prices. Growing vegetables at home in "victory gardens" was once an act of patriotism.

Oregon has some of the best soils and climate in the world for growing food, and we should be encouraging, not prohibiting, it. We urge your support for SB 59.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Associate Director