



1000 Friends of Oregon
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May 14, 2025

Chair Nathanson and Committee Members
House Committee on Revenue
State Capitol
Salem, OR

Re: HB 2316A - Home Start Lands

1000 Friends of Oregon supports HB 2316A, known as the "Home Start Lands" bill. The bill authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to evaluate lands owned by specified state agencies inside urban growth boundaries and, if the lands have not been used or committed for any permanent state purpose, to determine if they would be better suited for affordable housing development. The bill establishes a process to transfer such state-owned lands to a qualifying developer, subject to an affordable housing covenant, and establishes a fund to implement the program and to provide loans and grants to develop affordable housing. Finally, the bill requires coordination with relevant state agencies.

1000 Friends opposed the bill in its original form, which was focused solely on developing publicly-owned lands outside urban growth boundaries (UGBs). We appreciate that the bill's sponsor amended the bill so it is now focused only on certain state-owned lands inside UGBs. Housing should be located near the things people need to access regularly - like schools, stores, and jobs. This makes for more affordable living and creates community. We have long supported looking at all surplus publicly owned lands inside our towns and cities for their potential to develop with affordable housing. HB 2316A is a significant step towards accomplishing this.

We urge you to support HB 2316A. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Associate Director

We have worked with Oregonians to enhance our quality of life by building livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas since 1974.