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February 9, 2021

Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair  
Committee Members  
House Committee on Housing  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2918 (Surplus Public Lands Inventory)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2918. 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.

We support HB 2918. This bill requires state agencies, transit providers, and transportation districts to prepare and submit to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) a list of surplus real property owned by an agency or district that is inside an urban growth boundary or that is outside a UGB and already zoned for residential use.

Surplus public lands, when in the right location, provide excellent opportunities for regulated affordable housing. Currently, affordable housing providers get a 30-day notice of public lands being available for sale, which is not a reasonable amount of time in which to evaluate the land and put together a financing plan, if it the site is appropriate. In a survey of how other states and regions have attempted to link surplus public lands and affordable housing, we found that it starts with a state level inventory. The inventory provided for in HB 2918 enables nonprofit affordable housing providers to learn about and evaluate lands that might become available for sale, much earlier than they currently are able to do so.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Deputy Director