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February 9, 2021

Sen. Beyer, Chair
Committee Members
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 286

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 286. 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.

1000 Friends supports SB 286. The bill would create the Environmental Justice Council in the Department of Environmental Quality, and charge it with several actions, including developing:

- A cumulative impact analysis to identify highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations and environmental health disparities in identified geographic areas and populations.
- Guidance for state agencies when adopting rules, policies or guidelines on how to use the cumulative impact analysis.
- Best practices for increasing public participation and engagement by providing meaningful opportunities for involvement for all people, taking into account barriers to participation that may arise due to race, color, ethnicity, religion, income or education level.
- Recommendations for establishing measurable goals for reducing environmental disparities for each community in Oregon and ways state agencies could focus their work toward meeting those goals.

These actions and more are long overdue, and we look forward to these first steps being taken. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director

