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March 18, 2021

Rep. Evans, Chair
Members, House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3160

Dear Chair Evans and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3160. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice. Statewide land use planning Goal 7 is "Areas Subject to Natural Hazards." Goal 7's objective is "to protect people and property from natural hazards" by reducing risk from natural hazards, including wildfires, through land use planning, coordination, and education.

The 2020 wildfire season, while the largest and most damaging to lives, homes, businesses, watersheds, and infrastructure Oregon has yet seen, is unlikely to be an anomaly. Oregon must invest in critical, coordinated community-based programs now to reduce wildfire risk and build community resiliency. HB 3160 does this. We call out several in particular, that integrate well with Oregon's land use planning program:

- Directs the State Fire Marshal to assist communities in developing and implementing community wildfire protection plans based on national standards.
- Directs the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to conduct or fund recovery activities, including reforestation, watershed rehabilitation, drinking water protection, slope stabilization, and erosion control in areas that have been subjected to wildfires.

Oregon needs a stable, ongoing funding source to carry out these programs. These needs are not one time only projects; they must be implemented and maintained on an ongoing basis to be effective. The proposed funding source in SB 3160 - a \$10 surcharge on all property insurance - makes sense. It is a relatively modest fee, spread across many payers. This mechanism also has a direct nexus to what the funds are being used for - to reduce risk to property, as well as people. We hope the bill will be amended to ensure the surcharge is not applied to lower income Oregonians, such as by exempting renters' insurance and those who live in manufactured dwelling parks.

Oregonians are looking to the legislature to take steps now – before the 2022 wildfire season – to protect communities, drinking water sources, infrastructure, and homes.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director

