



Main Office • 340 SE 6th Ave • Portland, OR 97214

March 31, 2025

Rep. Pam Marsh, Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Housing & Homelessness
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2647 - City of Monmouth urban growth boundary

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Anderson, and Committee Members:

House Bill 2657, with the -3 amendment, would authorize the city of Monmouth to swap a parcel of land that is approximately 90 acres in size and currently inside its urban growth boundary (UGB), for a 75-acre parcel that is currently outside but adjacent to its UGB. 1000 Friends of Oregon¹ expresses its appreciation to the city of Monmouth and its staff for asking to meet with us to present their legislative concept.

However, we cannot support HB 2647. State law already provides for UGB land swaps, which was recently made even easier by SB 1537 (2024).² Current law works, and has been used by cities for decades. In our meeting with the city of Monmouth and a follow-up email, 1000 Friends stated that we thought the city's proposed land swap made sense and complied with state law, and that we would support it as the city went through the existing process.

We do not believe it is an appropriate role for the legislature to override a process that works, and to instead essentially act like a local government body by rezoning specific parcels of land. In addition, it will cause other local governments to seek one-off changes from the legislature. The legislature establishes the policy and process for land use, and for myriad other functions of local governments and state agencies who are the entities that apply those laws to individual situations. It would paralyze the legislature to be involved in the individual fact-finding and law-application necessary for these types of decisions. We urge you to not pass HB 2647, and the -3 amendment.

¹ 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.

² The statutory authority for UGB adjustments is found in ORS 197.040, 197A.305, 197A.320 and 197.235, and in administrative rules at [660-024-0070](#)

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Associate Director