



1000 Friends of Oregon
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March 4, 2025

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

Re: HB 3589 - Senior Housing

Dear Chair Marsh and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon **supports HB 3589**. This bill directs the Housing and Community Services Department to establish a senior housing development initiative to incentivize housing for older adults and persons with disabilities, including housing that prioritizes visitability and accessibility. This program would be funded through a transfer of funds from the Senior Property Tax Deferral Revolving Account from the present through July 1, 2031.

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 of Oregon has long been involved in advocating for the full implementation of Goal 10, the statewide land use planning goal that sets the Housing objectives for our towns and cities to reach in their land use planning:

“To provide for the housing needs of citizens of the state. Buildable lands for residential use shall be inventoried and plans shall encourage the availability of adequate numbers of needed housing units at price ranges and rent levels which are commensurate with the financial capabilities of Oregon households and allow for flexibility of housing location, type and density.”

Oregon’s towns and cities, of all sizes, are not meeting the housing needs of current and future residents that are over 65 years of age, a large percentage of which have low incomes and have an increased need for accessible housing. Oregon’s population is aging at a faster rate than the national average, and older adults are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, often because they are unable to find accessible housing.

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.

The current gaps in housing for older persons and those with disabilities will only worsen as our population ages. We need to start now to provide safe, accessible, appropriate, and affordable housing for the older Oregonians of today and tomorrow. HB 3589 is an important step towards addressing these housing needs and we urge its passage.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Mary Kyle McCurdy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mary" and "Kyle" connected by a single stroke.

Associate Director