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April 26, 2023

Chair Maxine Dexter and Members
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
State Capitol
Salem, OR

Re: SB 406A

Dear Chair Dexter and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 406A, which would bring the cities and unincorporated communities of Tillamook County into the state’s “middle housing” program. 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.

The middle housing legislation (HB 2001) was passed in 2019 and is directed at cities over 10,000 in population, of which there are none in Tillamook County. That previous legislation requires cities over 10,000 in population to allow duplexes on every single-family lots in residential zones, and it requires cities over 25,000 in population to also allow 3- and 4-plexes, cottage clusters, and townhomes.

Yet housing shortages – especially for moderate and lower income Oregonians who work in coastal communities – are acute all along the coast. Coming into the middle housing program opens up opportunities for both the private market and nonprofit affordable housing providers to build more diverse and moderately priced housing in Tillamook County, and it provides the County opportunities for technical assistance and funding in this housing effort.

We applaud the county and its cities for voluntarily choosing to participate in this program, to ensure more diverse and affordable housing options for residents and workers.

We ask that you support SB 406A. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director