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February 11, 2025

Rep. Helm and Rep. Owens, Co-Chairs
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2950 - Goal 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. We support HB 2950.

House Bill 2950 directs the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to update Goal 1, the statewide land use planning goal relating to “citizen involvement,” by June 30, 2027. It also requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to make further recommendations, to the Legislative Assembly, about the overall process of amending Goals.

Oregon's land use planning program is designed so that cities and counties adopt comprehensive land use plans, implementing zoning codes, and related regulations that meet the legislatively-directed 19 statewide planning Goals. The concept is that we plan upfront, and then it should be relatively straightforward to carry out the plans for where development of various types should go, where development should not go, where parks and public uses should be accommodated, what working lands and natural resources should be protected, and more. This comprehensive, up-front approach requires robust public engagement so Oregonians from all backgrounds and experiences are able to provide input, hear from the perspectives of others, and communities come together around shared values and vision. That's why Goal 1, Citizen Involvement, is the first of the 19 Goals.

However, Goal 1 has grown stale since it was last updated, in 1988. Oregon's population has grown and diversified, and the many ways in which the public engages with local and state governments and with each other has changed dramatically. We are far beyond public involvement meaning newspaper notices of in-person evening meetings, but that is the era reflected in the current Goal 1.

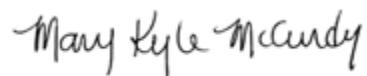
The old ways of public involvement are leaving many people and communities out – especially people who live in rural and underserved communities, those with moderate and lower incomes, people of color, both older Oregonians and youth, people with

disabilities, renters, and others. This means that our land use planning is not reflecting the needs of all.

Oregonians deserve equitable, accountable public engagement processes. It is time to update Goal 1 so all Oregonians can have a voice in their communities.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Associate Director