



1000 Friends of Oregon
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March 24 , 2025

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

Re: HB 3649 - Regional Housing Coordinators

Dear Chair Marsh and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon **supports** HB 3649. 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.

Communities throughout Oregon need housing for their current and future workers to grow local prosperity and stabilize communities. This will take innovative partnerships and funding methods. House Bill 3649 provides one of those opportunities. The bill would establish a housing coordinator in five regions of the state to support public, private and/or civic partnerships focused on developing co-investments for middle income, or “work force,” housing. It is modeled on a successful program in Tillamook County. There, the regional housing coordinator brought together the key housing developers, local businesses, and civic groups necessary for co-investing in several housing projects.

House Bill 3649 brings this model to five other regions of the state, for a relatively modest investment (\$2.5 million). The regional housing coordinators will bring together builders, employers, school districts and other public employers, knowledge of public and private investment sources, understanding of how to remove various barriers, and connections to local leaders.

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.

We urge your support of HB 3649. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Kyle McCurdy

Associate Director