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February 22, 2021

Chair Julie Fahey
Members of the House Committee on Housing
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2006 & HB 2004

Dear Chair Fahey and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2006, and its companion funding bill, HB 2004, as amended. These reflect concepts that were in a bill Speaker Kotek introduced in the February 2020 session, and which was passed on an emergency basis in the June 1st Special Session.

1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice. Our work includes ensuring that the promise of Oregon's Goal 10, Housing, is implemented inside our cities and towns with policies that both encourage and require needed, diverse, and affordable housing choices for all. That encompasses the full range of housing needs, appropriately located, including emergency shelters.

HB 2006 and HB 2004 would ease the ability to locate emergency shelters in all communities and significantly increase funding for them, to enable Oregon to more fully address the needs of many of our fellow Oregonians, so they may transition from being without a house to safe and affordable permanent housing. This need is even more acute after a year of COVID-19 related impacts and the 2020 wildfires.

HB 2006 contains improvements over the February 20920 bill by making it more likely to be used, in particular by expanding the definition of emergency shelter from "a building" to "a building or cluster of buildings." This allows more flexible use of existing buildings and includes housing solutions such as tiny home villages.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Kyle McCurdy

Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director