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March 24, 2015

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3215

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 3215. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a 40-year old, non-profit, statewide organization. We advocate for livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas, largely through the implementation and improvement of Oregon's land use planning program.

HB 3215 would allow local governments, without taking an exception to statewide land use goals that protect farm and forest land, to extend infrastructure from within an urban growth boundary (UGB), through urban reserves, to connect with other infrastructure that provides services within a UGB.

1000 Friends of Oregon opposes HB 3215 for several reasons. First, we have seen no demonstration that that this bill is necessary. We understand the bill might arise from one parcel of land in the Metro region. However, we are unaware of any showing that the landowner has attempted to address this locally, with Metro, to evaluate whether the landowner has reasonable alternatives to running urban services outside a UGB.

Second, assuming this bill does arise from one single instance, it has statewide impact, as urban reserves exist in the Willamette Valley, Metro area, Rogue Valley, and elsewhere.

Finally, the bill language is quite broad. There are no sideboards on it whatsoever. I was asked if urban services could be run from the UGB of one city, outside that city, to the UGB of another city. Is there any limit on the length of extension of the urban services? And even if necessary, the bill does not require that the route chosen be the least damaging to agricultural uses.

Because this bill is unnecessary and overly broad, we ask that you not pass it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Policy Director and Staff Attorney