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April 8, 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 3417

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members:

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.

1000 Friends supports HB 3417, which would require 30 days' public notice and an opportunity to comment prior to all meetings of the regional solutions advisory committees.

1000 Friends has generally supported the concept of the regional solutions teams – having state agencies in the same regions of the state work together when appropriate on regional issues and projects, and focusing state, local, private, and public investments in projects of regional significance.

Each region has a regional advisory committee (RAC), made up of Governor-appointments, who will each be given the opportunity to “spend” up to \$2 million in public monies on these local priority projects. Currently, these funding decisions are made at meetings with at best a 7-day notice period. That is inadequate for broad, public input, and to get input from neighboring jurisdictions and service providers. The state has 11 regions, each encompassing several counties, and some are far-flung. Tasks such as gathering input on RAC proposals from other local jurisdictions and service providers, discussing proposals locally, and travelling to RAC meetings to participate takes advance planning. That is why we support HB 3417 – to provide greater notice of upcoming RAC actions so citizens can prepare to participate, and surrounding local governments can provide input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Policy Director and Staff Attorney