2007 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 514 **STATUS:** B-Engrossed-**MINORITY REPORT**
SUBJECT: Conservation easements
GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Department of Revenue and Counties
PREPARED BY: Dawn Farr
REVIEWED BY: Susie Jordan
DATE: June 21, 2007

EXPENDITURES: See Comments.

REVENUES: See Revenue Impact Statement prepared by the Legislative Revenue Office.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET: This bill is not anticipated by the Governor's recommended budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

COMMENTS: The bill establishes a property tax special district assessment for land subject to conservation easements; requires owner of land placed under conservation easement to file written certification with a county assessor; allows owner to apply to receive a conservation easement special assessment; allows counties with a population of less than 50,000 to opt-out of the conservation special assessment easement; and establishes a conservation easement special assessment application fee of $250 payable to the county assessor.

The Department of Revenue indicates that the costs to update manuals and forms are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within existing resources.

A representative for the Counties indicates that the costs and potential Other Fund fee revenues are indeterminate. The belief is that the $250 application fee will be sufficient to cover the costs of receiving and processing the applications. There is not expected to be a fiscal impact to qualifying counties who execute their option to opt-out of the conservation special assessment easement.