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Testimony on SB77 before the Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee

Chair Roblan and members of the Committee:

SB77 would raise the LUBA filing and deposit fees from \$400 to \$2000, a \$1600 increase. While this is pocket change for people who can hire expert law firms, it is a large amount to most citizens.

Until a few months ago, I was a member of LCDC's Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC), charged with implementing Goal One, Citizen Involvement. In eight years on the committee, I heard hundreds of citizens talk (and sometimes shout) about their shock and dismay at the impossibility of effective grass roots participation in the land use system. Barriers to participation are everywhere, and getting worse. There were many times when the only advice I could offer was "take it to LUBA, it's not outrageously expensive".

This bill would make LUBA appeals outrageously expensive for the vast majority of Oregon citizens. It would cut off one of the few remaining avenues for citizens to participate in what is supposed to be their land use system. It's one bright spot in a dismal landscape. I urge you to retain the current LUBA fees.

More data on LUBA's activities would be very welcome. Other testimony has listed some good ideas. Requiring specific pleading in the Notice of Intent to Appeal is illogical – not needed with quasi-judicial actions since all errors must have already been raised at the local level, and impossible for legislative hearings without recourse to the full record. Consolidation of appeals is also a fine idea.

Thank you.

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