



**Association of  
Oregon Counties**

## **AOC Urges Your Support of HB 3110**

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties we offer our support for HB 3110. As you have heard, this bill is the result of an interim workgroup with various stakeholders at the table. HB 3110 will provide a solution for small rural and frontier counties and we urge your support.

HB 3110 will create the Oregon Rural Service Center within Oregon Business Development Department to assist rural counties, cities, and special districts learn about, apply for, and manage grants and other funding opportunities to support community workforce and economic development.

As you have heard, it is becoming increasingly difficult, and in most cases impossible, for rural and frontier cities and counties to apply for basic State grant programs. These including housing, infrastructure, economic development grants. All of these are good programs that the Legislature has created that are well meaning but unavailable to many that they are designed to help. This is largely because as our natural resource-based economies have declined so has the revenue to support the staff capacity to carry out some basic functions required in applying for and administering grant programs. The same is true for federal grants such as the USDA grants. Our jurisdictions simply do not have the staff capacity to apply or manage these grants. HB 3110 addresses this problem.

We urge your support.