

FROM THE DESK OF
REPRESENTATIVE
CYRUS JAVADI



**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON**

**IN THE MATTER OF OPPOSING THE)
THE CURRENT WESTERN) RESOLUTION AND ORDER
HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN)**

WHEREAS, The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners represents over 40,000 residents who rely upon County, City, School District and other special districts for essential public services;

WHEREAS, timber generated revenues are distributed to eligible taxing districts in an amount of more than \$24 million per year in Clatsop County alone, including approximately \$9 million for Clatsop County and County service districts;

WHEREAS, timber revenues comprise the second largest source of Clatsop County discretionary revenue (exceeding \$5 million per year) and partially funds the essential and priority services of our public safety and justice system, elections, assessment and taxation and other critical internal services;

WHEREAS, timber revenues are allocated to other Clatsop County districts, including Rural Law Enforcement, Road District #1, State Lands Enforcement, Extension/4-H and Fairgrounds in an amount of approximately \$3.5 million per year;

WHEREAS, the projected 30-38% range for the reduction in timber revenues due to implementation of the current version of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), equates to a net loss of \$2.7 to \$3.4 million per year for Clatsop County and \$4.5 to \$5.7 million loss to other taxing jurisdictions (for a total estimated reduction of \$7.2 million to \$9.1 million in local government revenues);

WHEREAS, the County and other taxing jurisdictions will be unable to replace this revenue loss at the local level; services and service levels will be predictably eliminated or reduced. These service reductions will have negative impacts on the public health, safety and sustainability of our community for generations to come;

WHEREAS, Clatsop Care Health District (a publicly funded senior care agency), rural fire departments and school districts are subject to service and program reductions that disparately impact the most vulnerable in our community;

WHEREAS, there is long-standing evidence that passive approaches to forest management greatly increases accumulations of ground fuels, ladder fuels, and canopy closures, and thereby contributes to the risk of catastrophic scale wildfires;



WHEREAS, the HCP development process did not include representation and participation from the elected leaders of those communities most impacted by the loss of revenue despite numerous requests;

WHEREAS, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners is committed to an HCP that balances environmental, economic, and social factors - including impacts to local government finances and service delivery;

WHEREAS, the draft HCP does not currently reflect a balanced consideration of these factors;

NOW, Therefore, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners resolve to oppose the current Western Habitat Conservation Plan and ask the Department of Forestry and other state agencies to reengage in a collaborative process to create an HCP that will protect the environment, our local economies, the social fabric of our communities and the ability for rural cities, counties, school district and special districts to be financially sustainable and continue to provide essential services and service levels now and in the future.

DATED this 12th day of October, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON

Board Chair