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February 14, 2023

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Re: Amend DLCD's budget to add POP 203 to fund CFEC efforts

Dear Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham, and members of the Subcommittee,

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST) is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit that is building a successful community by bringing people together to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

BEST urges you to amend the budget for the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to fund implementation of the Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) program.

For 25 years, I have worked on issues around land use, transportation, climate change, and equity. For the last decade, I have been the executive director of BEST.

Fifty years ago, Governor Tom McCall ushered in Oregon's land use planning program and established DLCD to protect Oregon's farm and forest lands.

Today, the mission of DLCD isn't solely about protecting natural resources. Today, DLCD's work is increasingly about guiding how Oregon grows in a smart, cost-effective, sustainable, and equitable manner.

I will offer just one example.

I live in Eugene, which like much of Oregon lacks sufficient housing. As a result, a growing number of people choose to live in outlying communities such as Creswell, Junction City, and Veneta. Indeed, Veneta is the fastest growing community in Lane County.

A predictable result is that traffic is increasing along Highway 126 between Veneta and Eugene, so much so that the corridor is increasingly unsafe. In response, the Oregon Department of Transportation is proposing to spend \$250-350 million to address growing safety concerns. That one big transportation project represents a huge bill due, the result of choices over decades to not plan for sufficient, diverse, and affordable housing in the economic center of Lane County.

Building a successful community by bringing people together
to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

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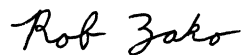
BEST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows. Tax ID #42-1661720.

The mission of DLCDC today is, in large measure, to help plan how our communities grow in a smarter and more cost-effective way, aiming to avoid future large public costs of poorly planned growth. The CFEC program, focusing on metropolitan areas where most Oregonians live and work, is central to this future-looking work.

CFEC is not currently funded in the Governor's budget, but it was included as POP 203 in the policy option packages submitted by DLCDC in fall 2022.

BEST urges you to amend House Bill 5027 to provide funding for the CFEC program as a smart investment in Oregon's future, million dollars spent today to save hundreds of millions of dollars in the future.

For BEST,



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