

February 3, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Committee On Ways & Means  
Subcommittee On Natural Resources

**RE: Support for SB 5528 | Department of Land Conservation & Development budget**

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, and Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD) budget bill, SB 5528.

For over 35 years, Central Oregon LandWatch has been working to ensure Central Oregon's livable future. We work to ensure our region grows well and with intention by creating well-planned and well-built cities with Complete Communities, preserving farmland, and protecting wild, open spaces.

DLCD is a small, but mighty state agency, with a mission and work that are foundational to Oregon's way of life and the lives of all Oregonians. DLCD plays a direct and formative role in shaping the quality and character of the natural and built environment throughout our state. So this department will play a vital role in helping our communities continue to tackle one of our biggest challenges ahead: Preserving the livability of this special place we all call home in the face of rapid growth, an affordable housing shortage, and climate change. SB 5528 is responsive to this reality and provides some solid funding approaches that hone in on key opportunities and resources needed to tackle these challenges head-on.

Over the course of the past two legislative sessions, DLCD has seen an increase in additional staff and resources to help meet the requirements of OHNA and to establish HAPO. The legislature also provided funds to local governments via DLCD to support their housing efforts required by OHNA. **We're pleased to see that the proposed budget in SB 5528 continues to invest in areas that support DLCD's successful implementation of these key initiatives, including support for local governments who also play a vital role in the success of these efforts (POP 100, 101, 501, 503, 504, 505, 506).** Ongoing support - now and beyond this session - for both DLCD and local governments is critical as they work to successfully implement new legislation and rules.

**Additional Considerations**

It is worth noting that the total needs assessment in DLCD's [Agency Request Budget](#) (ARB) tops \$40 million, while the total POPs included in the [Governor's Recommended Budget](#) (GRB) total less than \$11 million. **Given the foundational and vital work of DLCD, we urge this**



**committee to consider including additional resources that would help deliver better outcomes for Oregonians.**

In particular, **POP 500 (Creating GIS Capacity for Housing)** deserves additional consideration, as it enables DLCD to collect and use comprehensive data about UGBs, zoning, parcel-level development, infrastructure, and more. This would significantly bolster the quality of technical support and resources the department could provide to cities as they implement OHNA and related legislation and rules. This POP would also support better planning and climate change resilience efforts for Oregon's natural and working lands.

Though they aren't included in the ARB or GRB, we'd also like to elevate the need for **the inclusion of POPs that do more to promote wildfire safety, climate mitigation, and climate adaptation.** In DLCD's [2025 Policy Option Packages Straw Proposal](#), there are a number of proposals that would directly support a more climate resilient and wildfire/natural hazard-safe future. This includes technical assistance for local governments to update transportation system plans (TSPs) as a core part of implementing CFEC, as well as establishing a number of programs and actions that would center climate adaptation and natural hazard resilience planning.

**We urge your support of SB 5528**, as it provides important funding for DLCD to continue its essential work in stewarding Oregon's land use system, supporting local governments, responding to emerging challenges, and meeting Oregon's housing and climate goals. Thank you for also considering the inclusion of additional resources to directly support DLCD and cities in successfully implementing their continued climate and housing related work.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,



Corie Harlan  
Cities & Towns Program Director  
Central Oregon LandWatch

CC: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Co-Chairs Sen. Kate Lieber and Rep. Tawna Sanchez  
Brenda Bateman, DLCD Director

