



Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Salem, Oregon

Feb. 4, 2025

Re: SB 5528, Department of Land Conservation and Development

Dear Committee Members,

Oregon Coast Alliance (ORCA) is an Oregon nonprofit whose mission is protection of coastal natural resources and working with residents on community livability via participation in the land use planning system. We are writing you today in support of SB 5528, the Governor's recommended budget for the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

The coast is a vital part of Oregon's uniqueness, and the land use system is very important in protecting it, as well as in giving residents and other concerned parties a voice in shaping its future. Not only is it the most visited part of the state by Oregonians for recreation purposes, four of the land use Goals (16, 17, 18 and 19) refer only to the coastal region.

Oregon relies heavily on federal funding to provide the services of DLCD's Coastal Program. However, with federal funding so uncertain at this time, it is critical that the Legislature fund DLCD as fully as possible, recognizing that there may be a need for the state to begin supporting the Coastal Program in the future if federal funds are discontinued.

The Governor's budget recommends funding DLCD at the current service level, and to expand a few top policy areas. ORCA supports this agenda, but we would also like to remind legislators that uncertainties in federal funding may mean the state will need to provide funding for the Coastal Program in the near future. The Coastal Program is essential to maintain the livability of this region, and also to give residents the resources needed to participate in land use processes that uniquely affect the coast.

Thank you,

Cameron La Follette
Executive Director

