



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 testify in support of SB 5528, the Governor's recommended budget (GRB) for the Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD). Friends of the Columbia Gorge ("Friends") supports SB 5528, including the Policy Option Packages (POP).

For over 40 years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members, has been dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area ("National Scenic Area" or "Gorge").

DLCD is a small agency with a big mission that they do well, with very competent staff and leadership. And, they are leaders among state agencies in using broad, inclusive public engagement, which leads to better implementation and outcomes. The legislature has recognized the key role that the land use planning program and DLCD play in meeting the state's housing needs, by funding the department in recent years to formulate and implement the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (OHNA) program. OHNA is focused on the actual production of housing to meet the needs of all Oregonians, at every income level, in every town and city across the state. This funding has enabled DLCD to convene Oregonians around housing solutions, and to provide technical assistance, policy development, model ordinances, grants, and more to local governments - so they can update their land use and public facilities plans to meet the housing needs of today and tomorrow. We are at the beginning of the OHNA program and starting to see it produce results. Continuing the assistance to local governments is



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essential to actually realizing housing production. POPs 501, 503, 504, and 505 do this.

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,

Renee Tkach  
Conservation Director