



## Support HB 3175 Public Land Corner Preservation Program Modernization

### PROBLEM

County Public Land Corner Programs statewide are struggling to meet their mandated obligation to maintain the critical public infrastructure on which all property boundaries are based. Established by the legislature 40 years ago and supported by a document recording fee capped at \$10, the Public Land Corner Preservation (PLCP) Fund's buying power has been reduced from inflation by 70%.

### SOLUTION

House Bill 3175 removes the cap on document recording fees for the PLCP Fund, allowing counties to establish fees based on local needs. An adequately funded corner program benefits all Oregonians and furthers the legislature's policy goals related to housing and emergency management by:

- Supporting orderly land development
- Minimizing costly boundary issues and litigation
- Facilitating efficient development of middle housing
- Increasing GIS mapping accuracy to support 911 and wildfire response

### BACKGROUND

The Public Land Survey System (PLSS) was established by the federal government after the Revolutionary War. Since statehood, Oregon county surveyors have been mandated to maintain controlling property corners that make up the PLSS.

Controlling property corners are critical public infrastructure (located every ½ mile) forming the foundation for all public and private real property and resource land boundaries in Oregon.

In 1985, the Oregon State Legislature created the PLCP Fund in ORS 203.148. Supported by document recording fees that are capped at \$10 per document recorded, PLCP Funds are statutorily restricted for use *only* for costs incurred and authorized by the county surveyor for establishment, reestablishment, and maintenance of controlling property corners in the county.

Maintaining corners is an ongoing process requiring physical inspection and establishment or reestablishment of historical corners still set in trees or with rocks.

Over time, corners are destroyed and damaged by natural events, development, and careless human activity. When corners are destroyed or improperly placed, every landowner's property lines become less certain.

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Modern Corner



Historical Corner

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