



WASCO COUNTY SURVEYOR

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Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

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RE: Wasco County Urges Support for House Bill 3175, Public Land Corner Preservation Program Modernization.

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, Members of the House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans.

Wasco County has 2,396 square miles, and every half mile of land has a public land corner, or “controlling land corner” marked by a monument that sets the boundaries of all properties in the state. We have thousands of monuments to track, maintain, repair, and replace.

From the first stone monument set by the federal government in 1851 to today’s metal markers, Public Land Corners have been aged, damaged, moved, and disturbed. And since Wasco County was founded, our county surveyors have been excavating, repairing, replacing, and perpetuating monuments, many in their original position to preserve the system that holds up all of Wasco County’s property boundaries. When corners are destroyed or improperly placed, every landowner’s property lines become less certain.

In 1985, the Oregon State Legislature created the Public Land Corner Preservation (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.

Although the legislature recognized the importance of this work, the PLCP Fund’s buying power has been reduced from inflation by 70%. This has resulted in a gradual reduction in staffing and resources available to properly maintain the monuments.

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.

Wasco County Urges Support for House Bill 3175, Public Land Corner Preservation Program Modernization.

Sincerely,
Bradley J Cross PLS
Wasco County Surveyor