



February 10, 2025

RE: Deschutes County Urges Support for House Bill 3175
Public Land Corner Preservation Program Modernization

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

County Surveyors are responsible for the maintenance of Public Land Corners (PLCs). Oregon's PLC monuments were originally established by federal surveyors starting in 1851; consisting of a grid of corner monuments placed at one-half mile increments. These monuments provide the basis of measurement and location for property boundaries and ownership. Deschutes County contains approximately 3,055 square miles and 9,288 PLCs. Unfortunately, PLCs are subjected to removal, disturbance, and destruction by development, infrastructure improvement, and natural disasters.

As the fastest growing county in Oregon, Deschutes County experiences a large, and steady, volume of development and infrastructure projects. This challenges our ability to maintain, protect, and reset these PLCs. PLC Preservation (PLCP) maintains the stability of the land tenure system. When PLCs are destroyed property lines become less certain for Oregonians.

The cost of maintaining PLCs has increased significantly. In 1985, the Oregon State Legislature created the PLCP Fund (see ORS 203.148) which established a recording fee as the funding mechanism and capped the fee at \$10 per document. PLCP funds are dedicated to the establishment, reestablishment, and maintenance of Public Land Corners by County Surveyors.

House Bill 3175 removes the cap on document recording fees for the PLCP Fund, allowing counties to establish an appropriate fee based on local needs. An adequately funded PLCP program benefits all Oregonians and directly supports the legislature's policy goals related to housing, transportation, and emergency management.

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

Respectfully,

Kevin Samuel, PLS
Deschutes County Surveyor