



LINN COUNTY SURVEYOR

Linn County Courthouse, Room 117
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THOMAS J. CASEY
County Surveyor

February 11, 2025

RE: Linn 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

Linn County has 1401 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. That gives Linn County 11,200 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 Linn County was founded on December 28, 1847, 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 Linn County's property boundaries. When corners are destroyed or improperly placed, every landowner's property lines become less certain.

The cost of managing public land corners has increased significantly as the pace of development, labor costs, and inflation have not kept up with revenue sources. 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.

Today, Linn County does not have a survey crew for Public Land Corner Preservation. With the increased revenue a crew will be dedicated to the reestablishment and maintenance of these vital controlling, and historic 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.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Casey, PLS
Linn County Surveyor