



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058  
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • [www.co.wasco.or.us](http://www.co.wasco.or.us)

*Pioneering pathways to prosperity.*

March 6, 2025

House Committee on Revenue  
Representative Nathanson, Chair  
Representative Reschke, Vice-Chair  
Representative Walters, Vice-Chair

Subject: House Bill 3518

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke & Walters, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment on House Bill 3518.

Funding for the County Assessment Function Funding Assistance Grant (CAFFA) established by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 through House Bill 2338, has declined to a critical level. Originally providing approximately 30% of funding for Assessment & Tax functions across the state, CAFFA funding for Wasco County has decreased to a critical level. The last two years have dropped as low as 11.5% and 9.5%.

This decline places considerable pressure on our general fund to compensate for this declining source of funding. This affects the integrity of the property tax program and diverts funds from other essential general fund services Wasco County is required to provide.

Property tax is the primary revenue source for county general funds and other taxing districts including school districts, fire & police protection and cities to name just a few. HB 3518 seeks to restore the intent of HB 2338 by providing sustainable funding for Assessment & Tax functions across Oregon. Without this funding property tax revenues will continue to decline due to the strain of funding property tax functions. We strongly urge you to support the passage of House Bill 3518. The Wasco County Board of County Commissioners supports the passage of House Bill 3518.

Sincerely,

Scott Hege  
Wasco County Board of County Commission, Board Chair