



COOS COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

250 North Baxter Street, Coquille, Oregon 97423
(541) 396-7900 - FAX (541) 396-1027

JASON E. CORBUS
ASSESSOR

March 7, 2025

RE: House Bill 3518

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jason E. Corbus, I am the Coos County Assessor. With funding for Assessment & Taxation becoming more of a challenge year after year, as well as funding for our county as a whole, I am writing this to express my strong support for House Bill 3518. With the majority of our counties feeling the negative effects of CAFFA funding no longer being able to provide the same support as years past, HB 3518 will be an essential part in moving forward to assist and support Oregon Counties.

Meeting our requirements becomes more of a challenge as we strive to provide the same level of service and availability to our valued tax payers. Every year that we are understaffed, we leave millions of unaccounted for taxable value in our county. One year of returns from omitted new construction might seem insignificant in our current position, but having the ability to move forward, being able decrease the number of properties omitted, will strengthen our ability to accomplish our required duties at a higher standard moving forward. This reduction of properties omitted from the tax rolls will return needed property tax revenue to our taxing districts. A necessity for funding all of the critical services that are essential for our communities.

In this current tax year (2024-2025) we saw the loss of 3 FTE from our assessment and taxation departments in Coos County. While dealing with the retirement of our previous Assessor and Chief Deputy Assessor, we lost our Lead Appraiser, Appraiser I and a Tax/Accounting specialist. While this bill will obviously not resolve all of the funding challenges that we will face, it will bring a much-needed level of support and make proper adjustments for continued support in the future.

In 2010, Coos County had received \$399,708.42 from CAFFA funding. This was able to cover 21.79% of our A&T budget to which we had 21.75 FTE. In 2023-2024, with 19.08 FTE, CAFFA was able to support us at 11.72% with \$273,667.12. Moving into 2025-2026, our FTE figure is now reduced to 16.08 FTE. While this expands our scope of work on a very inexperienced appraisal staff (all residential appraisers have less than 12 months experience), the benefits that HB 3518 would be quite impactful given our current situation.

The changes that HB 3518 proposes represent a long overdue transformation to help our departments meet the challenges of perpetually rising costs of operation. It will play a very important part in the present as well as ensuring future support, making adjustments moving forward to the amount CAFFA is funded. I strongly urge you to support this bill and prioritize



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the necessary funding to assist counties A&T, now and years to come. We at Coos County thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason E. Corbus
Assessor
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