



Josephine County Assessor's Office
500 NW 6th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

DATE: March 11, 2025
TO: House Committee On Revenue
FROM: Chris Parton, Josephine County Assessor
RE: HB 3518, Relating to Funding County Assessment Functions

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

As you know, the 1989 Legislative Assembly enacted the County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) grant in response to statewide deterioration in the property tax system caused by a variety of factors, including a lack of local funding. In the early years, CAFFA grant funds were funding about 30% of the cost of administering this state mandated function but unfortunately this has declined over the last 36 years and is now only funding about 13%. This declining funding places increasing strain on each county's general fund, especially in Southwest Oregon which had their permanent property tax rates set by Measure 5 when we were still funding local government with federal timber receipts.

I know you have and/or will receive testimony about reappraisal backlogs, declining staffing levels and reduced customer service so I will skip the gory details and point out that my office is struggling with these issues as well.

There have been many bills introduced in the last 15 or so years, to increase and/or stabilize assessment and taxation (A&T) funding. Some of these bills were seeking sweeping changes but that is where this bill is different. By simply adjusting the recording fee for inflation and changing the property tax distribution, HB 3518 can reverse some of the neglect that has befallen A&T funding across Oregon. HB 3518 is a reasonable and prudent solution that is long overdue, and it deserves your support.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please support HB 3518.

Sincerely,

Chris Parton
Josephine County Assessor