



COMMISSIONER PAT FARR, District 4, North Eugene

PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING / 125 EAST 8TH AVENUE / EUGENE, OR 97401

March 11, 2025

House Committee on Revenue
HB 3518—Relating to Funding County Assessment Functions

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

Chair Nathanson, I value immensely the eight years you and I served together as Councilors and close colleagues on the Eugene City Council.

I am testifying in support of the overarching concept of HB 3518; re-enabling County Assessors and Tax Collectors to maximize the property tax collections for the taxing districts within their respective counties. As introduced, HB 3518 would stabilize, diversify, and index the County Assessment Function Funding Assistance Account (CAFFA) funding mechanisms.

During my years as State Representative from HD 14 and my 3-plus terms as Lane County Commissioner I have witnessed a steady decline in support for county Assessment and Taxation functions, particularly its ability to fairly and uniformly assess properties in a manner that both increases fairly received revenue for taxing district general purposes and places all tax payers on a level platform. Passage of HB 3518 will allow for stable indexed funding that will help maintain experienced A&T staffing, enhance accurate, timely, and reliable assessment values, improve fairness to taxpayers and provide increased tax revenue to taxing districts.

In Lane County Our staffing levels are one of the lowest per account in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Revenue suggested level of staffing for Lane County is 76 FTE. Current staffing is 48 FTE. We collect property taxes for 85 taxing districts.

I am testifying to add my voice to that of Lane County Assessor, Mary Vuksich-Shafer and other County Elected Officials who share my concerns and my urging of passage of HB 3518.

Thank you for your time reading and considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Pat Farr
Lane County Commissioner,
North Eugene District