



MALHEUR COUNTY ASSESSOR

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March 10, 2025

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 3518

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

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3518, which seeks to provide critical and stable funding for Assessment and Taxation functions across Oregon. As the Malheur County Assessor, I recognize the essential role that Assessment and Taxation departments play in ensuring accurate property assessments, fair taxation, and the equitable distribution of public resources.

Oregon's county assessors and taxation offices are responsible for maintaining a stable and equitable property tax system, which serves as a primary funding source for essential local services, including schools, public safety, infrastructure, and community programs. Unfortunately, inadequate funding has put considerable strain on these offices, jeopardizing their ability to perform timely and accurate assessments, maintain up-to-date property records, and process tax revenues efficiently.

House Bill 3518 secures the funding of these functions, ensuring that counties have the necessary resources to carry out their statutory duties effectively. This funding ensures counties will have the ability to maintain the staffing levels recommended by the Department of Revenue, while providing the resources to maximize technological capabilities. HB 3518 provides security to the assessment and taxation offices as well as the taxing districts throughout Oregon, ultimately benefiting all of Oregon's residents and visitors. I urge you to support this bill and advocate for its swift passage.

Sincerely,

G. Chris Russell
Malheur County Assessor