



Oregon

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TO: Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Co-Chair Emerson Levy
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources

FROM: Aurora Dziadul, Legislative and Policy Analyst,
Department of Land Conservation and Development

DATE: March 18, 2025

SUBJECT: Support for SB 5539



Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Department of State Land's (DSL) budget, SB 5539, as part of the Governor's 2025-27 Recommended Budget.

DSL's work is crucial to ensuring the protection of natural resources that benefit Oregonians in all facets, as well as providing needed financial support for our school systems. Their mission aligns with ours to ensure that Oregonians are living healthy lives supported by the natural and built systems the state boasts. DSL's protection of wetlands and related work helps to ensure better water quality and flood management for the benefit of the state's economy and residents.

In particular, we would like to highlight support for:

- Policy Option Packages 500 and 502 (Housing Production), which support housing production through increasing capacity for local wetland delineation review and responsiveness to the development community. This supports a complementary budget ask by DLCD, POP 504, which requests technical assistance funds for local governments to complete local wetland inventories.
- Policy Option Package 205 (Resources for GIS), which will allow DSL to have more robust GIS capacity and provide information on critical natural resources to decision-makers. This investment would complement DLCD's effort to boost GIS data collection and analysis for local planning efforts that support housing production, such as identifying development-ready lands and UGB adjustments.
- Policy Option Package 217 (Geological Carbon Sequestration), which will take necessary steps to meeting our state's climate goals and responding to the burgeoning climate crisis.

Ensuring strong investment in our state lands programs benefits all Oregonians by:

- Protecting wetland resources that support cleaner water, reducing flood risk, and ensuring vital ecosystems remain intact.
- Collecting critical revenue for the state to support the education of young Oregonians.
- Providing exemplary service to customers, including local governments and developers.

DSL is a valued partner of DLCD in the spaces of natural resource conservation, managing ocean and coastal resources, and streamlining processes to promote housing production. We urge your support for SB 5539. Thank you.