

**TO: Honorable Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

**RE: Passage of SB 1047**

**Date: March 18, 2025**

**Curry County is in a desperate situation.** Whereas most local economies recovered after the pandemic - Curry County did not. This coupled with the county having one of the lowest tax base in the state and the continued refusal by the voters to fix it, has left the county in a staffing desert.

My name is Becky Crockett. I was the Curry County Planning Director from 2019-2023. The last planning professional Curry County could afford.

Over the past year since I retired from the county, I have been inundated with phone calls, text messages, emails and personal conversations from numerous people desperate to get permitting help in Curry County. There have been cases of lost applications, erroneous zoning interpretations, people waiting up to a year to get permit approvals and a local surveyor refusing clients who have relied on mis-information from the county. Title company personnel, contractors, real estate agents and potential developers have even suggested commissioner recall efforts because they simply can't get permits for their projects. At almost every public hearing, no matter what the subject, someone is berating the commissioners because they can't get permits.

My son was at Gold Beach Lumber in Brookings a few months ago when a customer loudly stated to the store clerk that Curry County was the worst place he had ever tried to build in. He stated that he was taking his development money and moving to a different county where he could get permits.

I reluctantly agreed to help a few people with permitting and have experienced first hand similar difficulties. An application submitted December 3, 2024 for a storage facility in an industrial/commercial zone along Highway 101 still has not been approved even four (4) months later.

**So what is the problem in Curry County? It is really simple. There is no money so there are no staff.** The claims of county incompetence are wrong, insulting and undeserved to the few people trying to do their best in an extremely difficult situation. The county has tried in earnest to hire consultants and part-time staff to cover the issues using permit fees, but again, there is little to no money to keep them at a level people are historically used to.

**Passage of SB 1047 is imperative for the success of a substantial project with over 20 years of local community input and support.** This golf course project has arranged financing, developed architectural and course design plans, conducted invasive species (gorse) removal, coordinated with local governments on developing

much needed infrastructure (water and wastewater) and almost exclusively hired local employees. This project is the only viable option that is likely to bring needed work force housing to the area. **This project is an economic pearl in what is now an empty oyster shell.**

However, the lack of permitting staff at Curry County has the potential to cause this very patient developer to pack up and go elsewhere just like the angry developer in Brookings Gold Beach Lumber.

Thank you for reading my testimony. **Please pass SB 1047 to allow Curry County the resources they so desperately need to move this important project forward.**

Sincerely,

Becky Crockett  
Owner, Oregon Wasabi and Davy Crockett Tree Farms  
Director, Del Norte Resource Conservation District  
Past Curry County Planning Director (2019-2023)