



March 19, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Land Corners**

Clackamas County supports HB 3175 to modernize the Public Land Corner Preservation (PLCP) Program. Counties are mandated by state law to maintain public land corners, the physical markers used to distinguish the boundary between properties. Forty years ago, the state legislature capped fees to support this work at \$10. Since then, costs have exceeded available resources, requiring the Clackamas County Surveyor to reduce staff and preservation activities. As proposed, HB 3175 will remove the outdated fee cap, allowing Clackamas County the ability to set fees based on local need.

Many public land corners in Clackamas County were laid with stones or wood posts in 1865. These markers must be rehabilitated with bronze caps and iron pipes for longevity. Whereas the Clackamas County Surveyor previously rehabilitated 65 corners per year, this number will erode in 2025 to accommodate a smaller workforce without the ability to increase fees.

Deferring the rehabilitation of land corners will create new barriers to housing production. Public land corners provide the basis for land surveys, a necessary step before establishing a land division, subdivision, or parcel. When land corners are not maintained, surveyors may be unable to establish property ownership, delaying housing development.

HB 5175 restores local authority to counties to determine the appropriate costs to deliver state mandated services.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 3175.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.