



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Allison Williams, County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

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March 25, 2025

Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Hood River County Urges Support for House Bill 3175,
Public Land Corner Preservation Program Modernization

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members,

Hood River County has 533 square miles, and every half mile of land has a public land corner, or “controlling land corner” marked by a monument that sets the boundaries of all properties in the state. Hood River County has over 1,500 monuments to track, maintain, repair, and replace.

From the first stone monument set by the federal government in 1851 to today’s metal markers, Public Land Corners have been aged, damaged, moved, and disturbed. And since Hood River County was founded in 1908 (and previously Wasco County starting in 1854), our county surveyors have been excavating, repairing, replacing, and perpetuating monuments, many in their original position to preserve the system that holds up all of Hood River County county’s property boundaries. When corners are destroyed or improperly placed, every landowner’s property lines become less certain.

The cost of managing public land corners has increased significantly as the pace of development, labor costs, and inflation have not kept up with revenue sources. In 1985, the Oregon State Legislature created the Public Land Corner Preservation (PLCP) Fund in ORS 203.148. Supported by document recording fees that are capped at \$10 per document recorded, PLCP Funds are statutorily restricted for use only for costs incurred and authorized by the county surveyor for establishment, reestablishment, and maintenance of controlling property corners in the county.

Our public land corners control some of the most valuable agricultural land in the state. Hood River County leads the world in Anjou pear production. We also have significant timber and recreation land resources. Like many areas in our state, housing is a challenge in our County. Properly maintained Public Land Corners can significantly reduce the time and expense of delineating property boundaries for housing development, including our important interfaces with our federal lands and National Scenic Area boundaries.

House Bill 3175 removes the cap on document recording fees for the PLCP Fund, allowing counties to establish fees based on local needs. An adequately funded corner program benefits all Oregonians and furthers the legislature’s policy goals related to housing and emergency management.

Hood River County Urges Support for House Bill 3175, Public Land Corner Preservation Program Modernization

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Jennifer Euwer

Hood River County Board of Commissioners Chair