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April 18, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature | 900 Court St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 5006 April 16 Public Hearing

Dear Chair Lieber, Chair Sanchez, and members of the Committee,

For over 35 years, Central Oregon LandWatch has been working to ensure Central Oregon's livable future. To grow well and with intention, LandWatch's Cities & Towns program works to deliver Complete Communities to our region—mixed-use places with housing options for all, nature nearby, and access to safe, convenient, affordable transportation options.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. **As Oregon shapes its 2025-2027 biennial budget, we urge you to prioritize funding for policies and investments that maximize housing, transportation, and climate benefits.**

Infrastructure costs and land readiness are among the biggest barriers to building the housing we need. Statewide, city infrastructure needs for housing, transportation, water and sewer top \$12 billion.¹ This issue is particularly acute in Central Oregon and is impacting our ability to build tens of thousands of units of needed housing. **Governor Koteks's House Bill 3031 would make big strides in addressing this issue by establishing state programmatic funding for housing-related infrastructure within cities. We urge you to prioritize full funding for this bill to help put more homes within reach of all Oregonians.**

Oregonians also need a safe, reliable, and balanced multimodal transportation system. **So as the transportation package comes together this session, we urge you to prioritize and increase investments for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund, wildlife crossings, and essential, oversubscribed multimodal safety and mobility programs, like Safe Routes to Schools, Great Streets, and Oregon Community Paths.**

With limited resources and uncertainty due to federal actions, we know there are tough decisions ahead. LandWatch urges the Ways & Means Committee to prioritize funding for critical housing-related infrastructure, a safe, multimodal transportation system, and wildlife crossings across Oregon. This will help ensure every Oregon community can thrive on the path ahead.

¹ League of Oregon Cities, [Infrastructure Survey Report](#), August 2024



We defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future



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Thank you for your service and consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Reidelberger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristin Reidelberger
Cities & Towns Associate Program Manager



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