



April 25, 2025

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

RE: HB 5006 - Funding Priorities

Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chair Girod, Vice-Chair Gomberg, Vice-Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony on HB 5006** on behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch (LandWatch). For over 35 years, LandWatch has been working to ensure Central Oregon's livable future. We do this by creating well-planned and well-built cities with Complete Communities, preserving farmland, and protecting wild, open spaces.

Summary

As Oregon shapes its biennial budget, we urge you to prioritize funding for policies and investments that **address Oregon's significant infrastructure needs, and that deliver abundant housing, multimodal transportation options, and climate benefits to our communities. This includes:**

- **HB 3031 - \$106M:** OBDD Housing Infrastructure Fund (POP 500) in GRB
- **HB 2138 - \$4M:** DLCD Reduce Affordable Housing Production Barriers (POP 505) in GRB
- **Infrastructure funding for housing within Complete Communities:** Sewer infrastructure investments in the central City (**\$14M**) and in Southeast Bend (**\$20M**) would unlock thousands of housing units and jobs.
- **SB 5528:** DLCD POPs 501 - **\$7M**, 503 - **\$1.7M**, 504 - **\$0.5M**, and 506 - **\$0.3M** in GRB that support key housing initiative implementation
- **Oregon Transportation ReInvestment Package (TRIP):** Prioritize and increase investments for STIF, wildlife crossings (**\$15.5M**), and multimodal safety and mobility programs.

Funding Priorities

Housing & Infrastructure

Infrastructure costs for water, sewer and transportation are among the biggest barriers to building the housing Oregonians need. 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 **HB 3031** would make big strides in addressing this issue by establishing state programmatic funding for housing-related infrastructure within cities. Oregon Business Development Department's Housing Infrastructure Fund POP 500 for \$106M in the Governor's



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Recommended Budget (GRB) supports and implements HB 3031 and we urge you to prioritize full funding for this bill. We also urge funding for Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD) POP 505 for \$4M in the GRB which supports **HB 2138**, a bill that significantly reduces affordable housing production barriers.

There are a number of **vital infrastructure projects that would unlock thousands of housing units and jobs throughout Bend**. This includes but is not limited to: The **Central Interceptor Project** (\$20M) which would serve development of 2016 UGB expansion areas and redevelopment of Bend Central District and Core Area, providing an estimated 6,000 housing units and 4,500 jobs; and the **Southeast Expansion Area Plan Sewer** (\$14M), which would support development of 1,230 dwellings, 2,800 jobs, a neighborhood park, elementary school, and multi-use paths. HB 3031 could serve as a potential source, or partial source, for this funding request.

We're also supportive of **SB 5528**, which invests in areas that support DLCD's successful implementation of key housing initiatives, including support for local governments who also play a vital role in the success of these efforts. In the Governor's Recommended Budget this includes DLCD POPs 501 (HAPO Technical Assistance) for \$7M, 503 (Housing Planning Technical Assistance) for \$1.7M, 504 (Reduce Production Barriers Wetland Delineation) for \$0.5M, and 506 (Housing Production Dashboard) for \$0.3M.

Transportation

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

We support the portions of the TRIP framework that call for at least \$12.5M per biennium dedicated to implementation of **Oregon's wildlife-vehicle collision reduction program**. This funding is projected to enable completion of an additional 20 priority wildlife crossings projects over the next 30 years. We also support \$3M per biennium for important **wildlife corridor work** performed by ODFW to complement and increase the safety and effectiveness of ODOT's roadway projects.

With limited resources and federal uncertainty, we know there are tough decisions ahead. LandWatch urges this Committee to move forward in the face of uncertainty and prioritize funding for abundant housing, critical housing-related infrastructure, and a safe, multimodal transportation system for Oregon. This will help ensure every Oregon community can thrive on the path ahead. Thank you for your service and consideration of this testimony.





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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corie Harlan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Corie" being more prominent than the last name "Harlan".

Corie Harlan
Cities & Towns Program Director



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