



MEASURE: HB 2351
EXHIBIT: E
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
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PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF OREGON

Comments by Fred VanNatta on HB 2351
on behalf of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon
House Revenue Committee
April 13, 2011

First, I should note we are presenting the committee with amendments reducing the proposed increase from \$10 to \$5. Unfortunately that falls far short of inflation adjusting the fee to about what was initial established in the mid-1980's when the Public Land Corner Preservation Fund was first established.

Today it takes \$21.57 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics to = \$10 in 1985.**

The purpose of this fund is to pay the expenses incurred in the establishment, reestablishment and maintenance of corners of government surveys.

We refer to this as our "local option jobs bill". This is NOT a state mandated fee increase. This legislation gives county governing bodies the authority to collect up to \$15 per recording for the Corner Preservation Fund..

Not all county governing bodies are charging the full \$10 fee today because they don't need the money to keep their survey corners current. For example Washington and Multnomah Counties only collect \$5 at the present time so recordings in those counties will not be affected by this legislation.

However several of our major counties have made significant staff reductions in recent years, Lane County from 6 to 2, Marion County from 8 to 4 and Lincoln County 2 ½ full time equivalents to 1 part time person.

This is a local fee but I know my friends in the real estate and home building business think of it as a real estate transfer tax and their members think "real estate transfer tax" it's awful. And they are correct when the the money is diverted away from infrastructure for real estate transaction. **This fee is different.**

This money is used to increase the value of real property. Anyone who needs a survey to sell their home or to divide a piece of property will find their expenses are less if their surveyor can find the necessary corners near by.

**http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm