

MEASURE: HB 2351  
EXHIBIT: H  
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE  
DATE: 4/13/2011 PAGES: 1  
SUBMITTED BY: CHUCK PEARSON



R. Charles Pearson  
County Surveyor

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SURVEYOR

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BUILDING  
150 BEAVERCREEK ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

April 5, 2011

The Honorable Phil Barnhart, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Vicki Berger, Co-Chair  
House Revenue Committee  
Salem, Oregon

Re: **HOUSE BILL 2351 – SUPPORT**

Dear Representatives Barnhart and Berger:

I am writing to urge your consideration of, and support for, House Bill 2351. This bill authorizes an increase in the maximum fee collected by counties to fund the Public Land Corner (PLC) restorations in Oregon. The current maximum fee of \$10 was established in 1985 and has not been increased since then. The reduced buying power plus diminished collections has already resulted in a 20% reduction in staff with another 25-40% reduction scheduled for next fiscal year. A draft amendment has been prepared changing the increase to \$5.

Public Land Corners are the fundamental basis for every land description, boundary survey and subdivision plat in Oregon. When these corners are lost or destroyed, the costs to establish the boundaries for these purposes can be dramatically increased.

I understand that the Homebuilders and Realtors are in opposition to this bill but, interestingly enough, they both supported the PLC fee in 1985. I have been told by Jon Chandler, lobbyist for the Homebuilders, that their primary opposition to the bill is the fear that the money in the fund will be diverted to other purposes. In the 26 years since the inception of the fund, this has never happened and I believe that there are sufficient legislative safeguards to prevent this in the future.

The proposed increase is a small price to pay for the continued protection of Oregonians property rights.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RCP", written over a horizontal line.

R. Charles Pearson, PLS  
Clackamas County Surveyor