



**BETSY CLOSE
OREGON STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 8**

April 16, 2013

Testimony in support of SB 538:

Thank you Chair Roblan and members of the committee. I am Senator Betsy Close. I am sponsoring SB 538.

SB 538 allows two or more counties to enter into an intergovernmental agreement to petition the Land Conservation and Development Commission for regional definitions of agricultural and forest land. In 2012, there was an Executive Order by Governor Kitzhaber that allowed Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas Counties to develop a pilot project which stemmed from the 2012 Legislative Assembly session granting some funding for initial work by interested counties. Essentially, SB 538 takes that concept and allows any two or more counties in the state to enter into the same process.

Here today to testify is the Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners Susan Morgan. Susan served in the House of Representatives for 10 years and was an advocate for natural resource issues. I had the pleasure of serving with her in House. I appreciate her taking time to travel to Salem (a long ways) and to testify on this bill.