



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 28, 2013

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency
Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
Members of the Committee
(Samantha.white@state.or.us)

Re: HB 2620 – Reorganization of state agencies - CONCERNS

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Reorganization of state agencies may be a laudable goal that provides for more efficient and effective government. However, any such reorganization should be an open and public process so that the benefits and problems can be considered and weighed before action is taken.

Lines 4 and 5 refers to “regional and community based governance”, but it is unclear what “governance” units are being considered. The use of the word “governance” throughout the bill is not defined and should be done for clarity of purpose.

Lines 15 and 16: “Identify reforms that will advance the goals of reducing costs, duplication and the fragmentation of functions” is an especially appealing goal that we support so long as these reforms do not lessen the implementation of policies in our state laws and rules. A focus on purpose and outcomes should be a measurement in determining the worth of any reorganization effort. We addressed some of these issues in a letter related to water agency consolidation in 2009 (attached).

Of greatest concern to the League is the missing direction to assure great public participation in Section 2 where the Governor is directed to “develop a reorganization plan.....” Any project of such magnitude must require broad public outreach, education and participation. Should you choose to move this bill forward, we ask that a clear public participation plan be included.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resource Coordinator

Attached: April 23, 2009 letter to Ways and Means



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

June 18, 2013

To: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Senator Betsy Johnson and Representative Bob Jenson, Co-Chairs
Members of the Committee
Email: WaysandMeans.TransportationEcDevSub@state.or.us

Re: HB 2620A –Reorganization of economic and community development programs with public input - SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

"The League of Women Voters believes democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible."

"Citizen participation, education, communication and ongoing reevaluation are essential elements in the comprehensive planning process."

HB 2620A now contains the principles listed above. The legislation assumes that communities have had or will have local discussions about their priorities. The Governor pledges to provide an opportunity for public review and engagement as a "plan to align state economic and community development programs with regional and community development programs."

We appreciate the work done by Representative Clem and the Governor's Regional Solutions Director, Greg Wolf, to recognize the importance of citizen engagement. With participation comes "ownership" of whatever plan is adopted. Although this bill assumes efficiency and monetary savings, we know that there will be important local needs for which taxpayers will be asked to pay. A buy-in is critical; advocacy is even better.

We support HB 2620A and ask that you move the bill to Full Ways and Means to assure funding for the public engagement promised in the bill.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

Cc: Greg Wolf, Governor's Regional Solutions Director
Representative Brian Clem, Chief Sponsor of HB 2620



State of Oregon
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 68-11
Creating
State Administrative Districts

Overlapping boundaries of state, local and federal programs have created a chaotic, inefficient operating system which leads to confusion among public officials and citizens; and to a dilution of effective coordination and implementation of public programs.

After months of study and consultation, the Planning Section of my office has identified the following state administrative districts as best representing natural, social, and economic groupings of counties. These districts do not meet every specific need. If we were to do so, we would continue to have the proliferation of districts that now exists. They do, however, reflect local preferences and a great deal of compromise on the part of state administrative units.

It is my intention to have state government comply to the highest degree possible with these groupings and to urge federal and local government to conform to these same lines. Through this joint effort we should be able to assure Oregonians maximum value from their public programs.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED that all state agencies, boards, committees, commissions, and departments conducting business at the local level through districts or regions, and planning future programs requiring a regional approach, utilize the districts designated by this order. Sub-divisions within these districts or groupings of whole districts may also be used.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DIRECTED that the following shall constitute State Administrative Districts:

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS

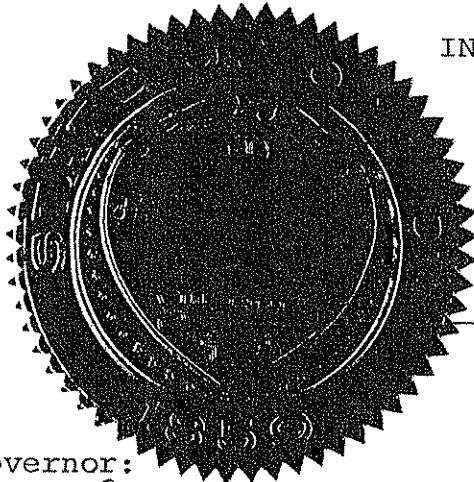
- | | | |
|----------|----|---|
| District | 1: | Clatsop, Tillamook Counties |
| District | 2: | Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington Counties |
| District | 3: | Marion, Polk, Yamhill Counties |
| District | 4: | Benton, Lincoln, Linn Counties |
| District | 5: | Lane County |
| District | 6: | Douglas County |
| District | 7: | Coos, Curry Counties |

District 8: Jackson, Josephine Counties
District 9: Hood River, Sherman, Wasco Counties
District 10: Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson Counties
District 11: Klamath, Lake Counties
District 12: Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler Counties
District 13: Baker, Union, Wallowa Counties
District 14: Harney, Malheur Counties

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DIRECTED that special exemptions may be granted to those agencies whose use of specific district boundaries would bring undue expense, hardship, or decreased efficiency to the operation of that agency. Exemptions will be granted by my office on a district-by-district basis. Agencies seeking exemption because of special circumstances shall submit to my office:

1. A map depicting those Districts which can be utilized and those where a modification from State Districts is essential, and
2. An identification of statutes, federal regulations or guidelines, personnel difficulties, workload difficulties, or existing investments in field facilities which justify delay in adoption of the state administrative districts specified herein.
3. A timetable for eventual agency conformance with this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DIRECTED that each agency with regional offices or programs shall identify the senior administrative person for each of the 14 districts. Agencies having separate programs under separate administrative structures at the local level may designate a senior administrative person for each such program. This listing shall include the person's name, title, work address and work telephone number. Preferably this designation should be of a person residing within the district; however, when an agency is grouping whole districts, the designee may be responsible for as many as are grouped together.

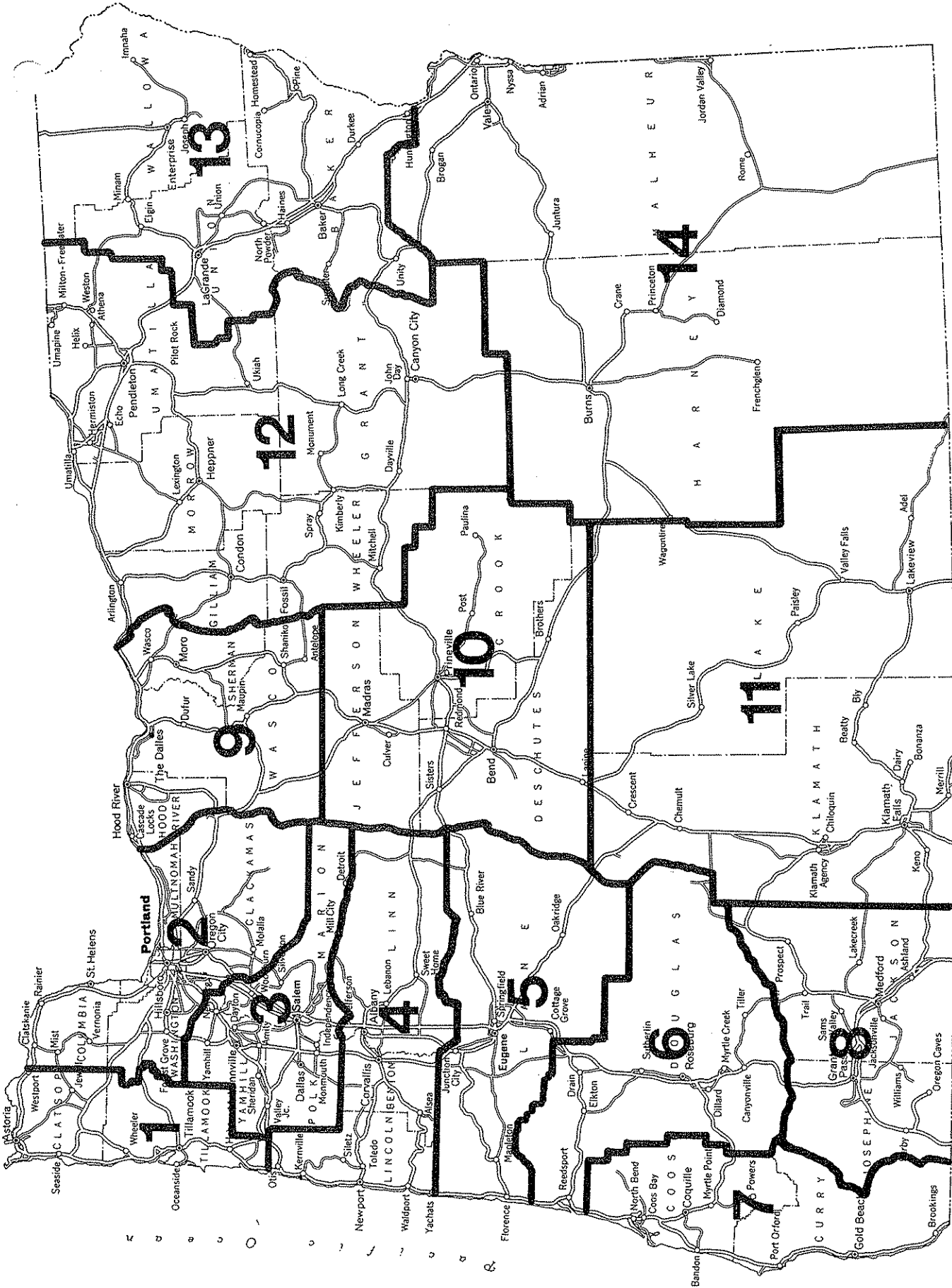


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State of Oregon. Done at Salem, the capital, this 25th day of July, A.D., 1968.

Tom McCall
Governor

By the Governor:

Clay Myers
Secretary of State



JULY 1968

State of Oregon DISTRICTS

Office of the Governor - Planning Section

— district boundary
5 district number

A-Engrossed HB 2620

Aligning State and Regional Community and Economic Development Programs

**Mike McArthur
Executive Director, Association of Oregon Counties**

June 18, 2013

The Association of Oregon Counties urges your support for A-Engrossed HB 2620 which emphasizes the importance of aligning state and regional economic and community development programs with the goal of resolving difficult regional issues. This bill requires state agencies to be engaged through collaboration and in an integrated fashion with local governments, businesses, and nonprofit corporations at the regional and community levels.

Regional governance is not a new concept. I have attached an Executive Order from Governor Tom McCall ordering the formation of districts to encourage efficiencies and more effective service delivery.

AOC strongly supports the Regional Solutions Teams and their approach to resolving difficult conflicts and issues. This approach has been proven and is effective because it brings together the key parties necessary to address problems. Regional Solutions recognizes there are unique needs in each region of the state. By convening the key parties and jointly focusing priorities, problems can be solved and funding opportunities can be leveraged to address issues essential for long-term growth and vitality of our communities.

The bill requires the Governor to develop a plan, consistent with state program objectives and delivery of services, to complement the efforts of Regional Solutions Teams. We believe the results from these governance changes will yield significant benefits for communities and address issues that span jurisdictions and program areas.