

February 26, 2013

Senator Roblan
Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senate Bill 77/Oppose

Dear Chairman Roblan and Committee Members,

I live in Central Oregon and have been involved in filing appeals with LUBA. I am a widow and live on a fixed income. The increase in fees would exclude me from being able to have citizen involvement at the LUBA level. I do not understand what requiring specific pleadings at the Notice of Intent to Appeal (NITA) level would accomplish in the quasi-judicial cases since I must raise all of my concerns at the local level.

The extreme increase in the fees is a way to gag the everyday citizens and their involvement in land use cases. It would be like charging a fee to attend the legislative session and giving testimony. Oregon has always taken pride in allowing her citizens to be part of the process whether land use or legislative.

I remember when the "SLAP" suits existed and how I was threatened many times that if I testified on a land use issue that I would be sued. It took many legislative sessions to stop "SLAP" suits against everyday citizens that wanted to be part of the process.

I encourage you and the committee members to oppose Senate Bill 77. Please allow everyday Oregonians that have restricted incomes to be allowed to be part of the LUBA process. We are the people that at the grass roots level watch over Oregon when it comes to land use.

Thank you,

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