



February 24, 2015

RE: Testimony from the Association of Oregon County Planning Directors on SB 359

To: Laura Handzel, Judiciary Committee Administrator

The Association of Oregon County Planning Directors would like to offer this testimony in opposition of SB 359 which limits the amount of appeal fee counties may charge for land use applications.

There are significant differences in costs of processing land use applications and appeals between counties throughout the state. The mechanism to cover those costs varies from full cost recovery in some counties while other counties subsidize costs through the use of general fund dollars. The costs of processing land use appeals also varies across the state because some appeals are heard by volunteer planning commissions while other counties rely on contract hearings officers. In either case, the proposed cap on appeal fees of \$1000.00 in most cases through the state will not cover the actual cost of processing land use appeals, and in many cases does not cover half or a third of the actual cost of service. The current law which allows counties to determine fees should remain a local decision and is necessary to provide flexibility and sound fiscal planning to support planning programs throughout the state.

The Association of Oregon County Planning Directors opposes SB 359. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Mike McCallister
President Association of Oregon County Planning Directors
Clackamas County Planning Director

cc: Mark Nystrom, AOC