

AOC SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 249

To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Senate Bill 249

Date: March 4, 2015

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Counties support SB 249 which allows the Department of State Lands to recoup its costs for wetland mitigation projects in areas where there previously was no wetland mitigation bank. Counties are responsible for the county road system in Oregon and at times counties have the need for wetland mitigation. In these cases it is helpful to have the ability to purchase “credits” from a mitigation bank in the area of the project.

There is a need for mitigation banks in areas not currently served by the for-profit mitigation banks. This bill would allow DSL some assurances to invest in areas of need knowing that they would be able to recoup their costs. The bill would not impact private mitigation banks and would only impact areas where there are no banks in place.

Please contact AOC Staff Mark Nystrom regarding any questions with this testimony.