

**Comments on Budget Proposal for  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
To Natural Resources Subcommittee of Joint Ways and Means Committee  
March 19, 2015**

Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Greg Macpherson, Chair of the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). In my volunteer service on LCDC, I work closely with the Department of Land Conservation and Development. I appear before you today in support of the budget proposal for the Department in the 2015-17 biennium.

The Department's mission is to help Oregon communities and citizens plan for, protect, and improve the built and natural systems that provide a high quality of life. This is done in partnership with local governments.

While this important mission spans across the entire state, it is noteworthy that the Department undertakes it with a staff of only about 60 employees. The work succeeds because that small staff assists and supports local governments, where the main work of land use planning takes place. The Department provides them with technical advice, planning assistance, and grants for specific projects.

Oregon's statewide land use program is locally focused. To keep it so, our LCDC Commission holds many of its meetings around the state so local planners and elected officials can share with us what's happening on the ground. In the past several years we have traveled to Burns, Portland, Coos Bay, Eugene, McMinnville, Ontario, and Tillamook. Later this year we will meet in Astoria, Medford, and a location yet to be chosen in eastern Oregon as we consider a new rule on lands within Sage Grouse habitat.

We could not accomplish this without the work of the Department. In addition to the excellent technical skills of Salem staff, the Department has field representatives located around the state to provide the front-line presence our local government partners need. When we travel for a meeting we are repeatedly told how capable the field staff is. Even local officials who disagree with aspects of the statewide planning program appreciate the help they receive from the Department in achieving compliance.

The Department's budget provides good value to Oregonians. They see the natural landscape preserved and urban development proceeding in an orderly way. When I sat where you do as a member of the legislature I earned a reputation for being careful with public resources. I am proud to continue that effort in my current service by urging approval of the budget proposal for the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

**Greg Macpherson**  
**Chair, Land Conservation and Development Commission**