



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of State Lands

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**Testimony of  
Jim Paul, Assistant Director  
Common School Fund Property Division  
Department of State Lands  
on  
House Bill 3444  
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water  
March 31, 2015**

### State Land Board

Kate Brown  
Governor

Jeanne P. Atkins  
Secretary of State

Ted Wheeler  
State Treasurer

The Department of State Lands (DSL) has been asked by the Governor's Office to share our concerns regarding House Bill 3444, which directs DSL to study issues related to land transferred by the bill and report on the study to the legislature before February 1, 2017.

The bill does not designate a specific state agency as recipient of federal public lands transferred, but the study requirement for DSL to determine actions necessary to assume management of public lands may be construed to mean DSL would be the manager.

DSL is charged with conducting a study and reporting to the Legislative Assembly no later than February 1, 2017. The required study is to include: actions necessary to administer the transfer of title; assume the management of lands transferred; secure the state's rights and benefits if the federal government fails to transfer lands as required; address processes related to certain listed interests, rights or uses on public lands; and establish a prioritized list of management actions to be performed to protect, prevent, preserve and increase certain conditions and uses of the public land. DSL is further directed to study procedures for imposing property taxation on these public lands.

The required study would be a significant undertaking, with no designated funding or staffing to accomplish the task. DSL's direct real property staff is currently less than a dozen people. The requirement to "[s]ecure, preserve and protect the state's rights and benefits . . . in the event that the United States does not meet the requirements . . ." would be a substantial expense, but difficult to quantify given the current wording of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.