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**Testimony of
Mary Abrams, Director
Department of State Lands
on
House Bill 3474**

**House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
April 9, 2015**

Chair Clem and committee members, for the record my name is Mary Abrams, and I'm the director of the Oregon Department of State Lands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 3474, known as the "Trust Land Transfer" bill.

HB 3474 would provide a way to transfer school trust lands to another public agency. The purpose is to provide a tool for the State Land Board to transfer certain state trust land properties that no longer work well as investments, while maintaining some form of ongoing public ownership. The state of Washington has had a Trust Land Transfer program since 1987, and they've found it useful for buying out under-performing state trust lands.

As owners of about 750,000 acres of trust lands dedicated to school funding, the State Land Board, and the Department of State Lands as their administrative arm, view a Trust Land Transfer program as a useful tool for potentially changing ownership of trust lands within the public sector, when they lose their ability to generate revenue for schools. House Bill 3474 would also provide a role for the legislative assembly to direct the receipt of the transferred lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 3474, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.