



Coos County Planning Department

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Jill Rolfe, Planning Director

DATE: June 15, 2015

TO: Natural Resources Subcommittee

FROM: Jill Rolfe, Coos County Planning Director

RE: House Bill 2633 and Senate Bill 94

House Bill 2633 provides a directive to follow a similar process that is done to identify flood hazards; however, this bill fails to address the funding component. All of the coordination, mapping and implementation discussed in this bill are going to cost an enormous amount of money and time. Current staffing levels through governmental agencies are dwindling, yet mandates seem to be expanding without fully considering the cost involved.

I do want to express that I believe hazard planning is very important especially for the coastal communities. Coos County is going through a long overdue process to try to update the comprehensive plan. The mail out alone will cost the county over \$6,000 dollars in postage and materials. When this process is completed the cost will be around \$15,000. When you take into consideration the Coos County Planning Department's budget is less than \$350,000 that is a substantial amount of money taken out of the budget with no potential for reimbursement.

Coos County Planning Department is not funded with general fund dollars. The money to keep this department functioning comes from fees and grants. Raising fees at some point will become cost prohibitive and will stop all legal development which would result in no growth. Also, fees are restricted by ORS 215.416. If no funding is granted the options for Coos County would be, not to comply with the mandate or lay off staff in the department. Neither option is viable and would be detrimental to Coos County's land use program.

In the past Coos County has applied for match grants from Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) as well as economical development grant money from the County to help offset the matching funds needed to comply with the grant and complete projects. If the money is not provided to DLCD or the local government to help with the expense to carry out these bills then it does not seem that it will be feasible to complete the tasks.

Please consider the funding component and the impacts to the community these bills will have.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.