



**Testimony by Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp to Amend SB 5527:
*Proposed DLCD Budget Jeopardizes Valuable Program for Local
Governments, Creates Inequity Among Oregon Communities***

Scheduled for public hearing on March 1, 2017, before the Joint Committee
on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Co-Chairs Frederick and Will and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying to amend SB 5527, which sets the budget for the Dept. of Land Use and Conservation for 2017-19 biennium.

We believe that the particular programs and services targeted for budget reduction and resource redirection place in jeopardy valuable programs that benefit local governments across the state and unfairly creates inequity among Oregon communities.

The proposed budget recommends about a 7% reduction to DLCD that would result in a cut of three positions, one of which could be a regional representative position. The proposed budget also recommends redirecting all technical and planning assistance grant-funds to coastal communities to prepare for the Cascadia seismic event.

While we agree that the coastal communities can use additional assistance (and even the proposed amount is insufficient), we are concerned that there is an equity issue — inland communities have many critical planning activities for which these types of grants are critical. We are also concerned by the precedent that once these grants ear-marked in such a manner, that it becomes more difficult to course-correct subsequently.

The DLCD grant programs have made a significant difference for our community. In 2010, Wilsonville received over \$48,000 in Technical Assistance (TA) funding to advance the Coffee Creek Industrial Area Economic Development and Infrastructure Analysis. This critical preparation work laid the foundation for the recent adoption of the Coffee Creek Urban Renewal Area that is planned to host over 1,500 family-wage jobs.

DLCD TA grant funds allowed the City to analyze all components of infrastructure needed to serve the 226-acre, Metro-designated Coffee Creek “Regionally Significant Industrial Area,” prepare detailed utility and transportation plans and produce marketing materials to recruit high-wage industrial employers.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges amending SB 5527 to maintain DLCD’s current levels of service and program resource allocation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville