



City of Prineville
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY HALL
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February 23, 2017

Joint Ways and Means Committee
Co-Chair Senator Lew Frederick
Co-Chair Representative Brad Witt
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE, Salem,
Salem OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5527.

Dear Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Brad Witt,

This letter is written in reference to Senate Bill 5527. Senate Bill 5527 appears to support both an increase in funding for Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) to local communities and a refocusing of the TAG dollars to communities along Oregon's coast in part due to the Cascadia event.

The Prineville Planning Department supports the increase in grant funding but does not support narrowing the focus of the TAG dollars to only the coastal areas.

Having co-authored the third FEMA approved Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) in Oregon, co-authored a FEMA approved multi-jurisdictional NHMP, participated in writing Oregon's Technical Assistance Guide for Natural Hazards, participated in the rewrite of Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 7 - Natural Hazards, I have some understanding of Natural Hazard threats in Oregon including the Cascadia event. The Cascadia event is identified as a threat to the entire west coast of Oregon, however all of Oregon will be affected by the event and should be given an opportunity to seek funding to prepare for the event. All of Oregon has experience with Natural Hazards. I happened to have been in the September 1993 earthquake in Klamath Falls, Oregon which destroyed many building including the County Courthouse. Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning is important to all communities in Oregon.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) offers TAG to local and tribal governments aimed at completing projects/studies that update and modernize comprehensive plans, land use ordinances and development codes. The TAG's are sometimes the only opportunity a small community has to obtain financial assistance for very much needed planning in their community. Local Government budgets are very tight, and grants whether State or Federal are extremely competitive leaving little opportunity to be selected. The City of Prineville has recently received a TAG which is assisting the City in updating the City Water System Master Plan. Without the support from the DLCD TAG program, I am not sure how the City would be able to update the outdated City Water System Master Plan. This I believe to be a common experience throughout the State of Oregon in small communities.

With that said, I respectfully ask you to support the increase in dollars to DLCD's TAG program, with the caveat that the dollars be made available to all communities throughout Oregon and not refocus the TAG dollars to just the Oregon Coast.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and your service to the State of Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Stenbeck, CFM
Planning Director
City of Prineville