



## CITY OF BEND

Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Natural Resources  
900 Court Street. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

February 28, 2017

Dear Co-chairs Sen. Frederick and Rep. Witt, and Members of the Sub-Committee:

I am writing in support of maintaining Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) budgets and level of service. Access to adequate staff and grant resources provides cities with legal direction when tackling complex land use issues. Significant changes in DLCD's budget may prevent cities from receiving timely information and direction which in turn leads to cities facing higher risks which can result in legal battles, additional cost, and time.

In 2009, the City of Bend initiated an expansion of its UGB, which faced significant opposition from local groups and ultimately DLCD. In our opinion, the agency's Remand Order was a result of combination of the quality of the city's work, the level of local opposition, but also a lack of timely, balanced, and legally supportable guidance from DLCD. Under Director Rue's leadership, the quality of services provided to local partners has dramatically improved, and the spirit of the agency has become more collaborative.

The Bend UGB expansion was recently acknowledged by DLCD. The success of this project relied heavily on DLCD's direct involvement. DLCD staff specialists were seated in our local committees to provide real time input, top management was always helpful and available to share perspectives, field staff were present at every public meeting, and the final approval was much faster than expected. The legislature's commitment to DLCD's budget will contribute to our city's success on upcoming land use projects addressing affordable housing, growth, and economic development. It will also benefit other cities as they work within Oregon's unique land use system to achieve their community goals.

Sincerely,

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