



## ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: March 21, 2017

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

RE: HB 3357, relating to document fee increases to provide affordable housing

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

Lane County is committed to creating pathways to home ownership, and many in our communities desire home ownership assistance. We partner with a variety of stakeholders in pursuit of affordable housing, from those who construct residences to those who advocate for specific policies in the Oregon Legislature. This stated, the Board of County Commissioners has a very clear principle with respect to unfunded mandates; we oppose them. It is this testimony you should consider even if you see our logo presented or name listed as part of another stakeholder group.

Lane County cannot offer its support to HB 3357 as introduced unless it is amended to ensure that the County has the ability to charge the 5% administrative fee provided for in statute. Through an action of a previous legislature, that statute, ORS 205.320 (2) may not be applied to the fee for certain housing assistance programs, including the one provided for in HB 3357 as introduced. HB 3357 as introduced maintains that preclusion, while doubling the fee to \$40 charged to those individuals and companies filing or recording real property documents with our County Clerk.

HB 3357 as introduced will represent an unfunded mandate for Lane County. Jointly and through the regular actions we participate in as a member of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), the membership of AOC have authorized that organization to file a declaratory judgement action seeking a court judgement on the question of whether this measure results in an unfunded mandate under Article XI, Section 15 of the Oregon Constitution. We support this position.

We would participate in continued conversations around home ownership, and ask that you direct your Committee Administrator to prepare an amendment such that ORS 205.320(2) (e) is repealed.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED