



March 1, 2018

Testimony in Support of DLCD Budget Request for Economic Opportunity Analyses
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and members of the committee:

We are writing today to voice our **collective support for the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD's) \$300,000 budget request to supplement their General Fund Grant Program.** These funds would specifically be used to **assist several eastern Oregon counties in conducting economic opportunity analyses (EOAs).**

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Farm Bureau, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Oregon Environmental Council, and The Nature Conservancy are united in their support for conducting these EOAs in order to identify the unique barriers to and opportunities for economic growth and development in Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Lake, Sherman, Malheur, Wallowa and Wheeler counties. We support sustainable development in eastern Oregon, and believe that looking at all the potential factors, including workforce, infrastructure, availability of capital and other factors, is equally important to looking at the potential need for land use changes in determining the best path forward for growth in each county.

We fully appreciate the magnitude of the challenges legislators face in producing a balanced budget. However, given the need to better understand the opportunities to increase economic prosperity in eastern Oregon, **we urge you to approve DLCD's budget request to create grant funding for these studies.**

Sincerely,

1000 Friends of Oregon
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
The Nature Conservancy