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To the committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Dave Smith. I'm the Database Administrator for the Department of Land Conservation and Development. My position is slated for a .5 FTE cut in the proposed rebalance plan. However, due to circumstances that I frankly don't fully understand (expenditures that have already occurred and/or are contractually obligated), the consequence of this is that I would be laid off. That may not be the intent, but I've been informed by my supervisor that this would be the case.

Note that in my introduction, I said I am **the** database administrator, not **a** DBA. The skills required for this position are not replicated anywhere else in the agency. I'm concerned about continuity of service delivery, as there is no one else to pick up the workload. The systems I'm responsible for managing are used by DLCD staff, the cities and counties we serve, and the general public. The data collected in these systems is used to inform decisions by DLCD, our commission, and the Legislature. As I'm sure you are aware, an information system is not a static thing. They need ongoing support and maintenance. They need someone to diagnose problems. They need modifications and enhancements to accommodate changing requirements. With the proposed cut to my position, the agency would have two choices: 1) The work just won't get done, or 2) Hire outside consultants. Since the budget for outside professional services is also being cut, there may be only one choice.

I've worked at DLCD for about six and a half years. My position was created as part of a policy option package called the Information Management Modernization Initiative (IMMI). IMMI represented an effort to develop and upgrade a variety of information systems within the agency. I believe the creation of my position was a recognition of (and commitment to) the fact that these systems need ongoing support. I hope a way can be found to preserve that notion.

Thank you.

**David F. Smith**  
503-931-8651

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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To:

Representative Jeff Reardon, Presiding Co-Chair  
Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair  
Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means  
Subcommittee On Natural Resources

July 21, 2020

Re: Rebalance Plan for Agency Reductions

Dear Members of the Subcommittee On Natural Resources,

I am a constituent of House District 8 and Senate District 4. I oppose all proposed staff layoffs in the Rebalance Plan for Agency Reductions. Staff layoffs will have a direct negative impact on already struggling small businesses and Oregon's local economies, because each staff person contributes most of their salary to their local economy. In addition, each position slated for elimination is valuable to the state.

I am "Item 306" in table "Agency Reduction Detail." I am a mother of three living in Eugene where I contribute approximately \$4000 per month to local businesses (I have two teenage boys who eat a lot). Judging from my recent receipts, the businesses who will feel an impact from my layoff include: Capella Market, Sundance Market, Sunrise Market, Market of Choice, El Super Burrito, Café Yumm, Laughing Planet, Palace Bakery/Full City Roasters, Hideaway Bakery, Tasty Thai Kitchen, Barry's Cafe, Nature's Pet Market, JC's Laundry, Plato's Closet, Buffalo Exchange, The Science Factory, Whole Earth Nature School, AAC Summer Camp, YMCA, Lane County Parks. I have supported these local, small businesses (wearing a mask) throughout the pandemic.

In addition to supporting these small businesses, I am paying for two children to attend the University of Oregon full-time which helps professors and staff to keep their jobs. In addition, I am supporting a special education tutor 20 hours per week to help my 7<sup>th</sup> grader, who ranks in the lowest 1% for "working memory," survive online education. There will be a negative domino effect of each layoff on our abilities to raise our families, on the businesses to which we directly contribute, and on the people that they employ.

Each position slated for elimination is valuable to the state. I am the only Measure 49 expert in the state. I have 14 years of institutional knowledge that will die with this position. The jurisdictions I help have so much turnover and such small staff that they rely on me to keep them out of legal trouble.

As the Measure 49 specialist, I also help conserve farmland, forests, and natural lands. For example, because of my deep knowledge of the intricacies of Measures 37 and 49, I helped:

- The McKenzie River Trust acquire over 400 acres of the McKenzie River watershed and prevent a planned Measure 49 subdivision
- Willowa County in its efforts to keep Measure 49 dwellings off of the iconic East Moraine

- Lincoln and Lane County forestland owner transfer Measure 49 dwelling rights off of old growth forestland that is now preserved as part of Brian Booth State Park
- East Multnomah Soil Conservation District locate lands to purchase and retire Measure 49 rights
- Various landowners transfer Measure 49 rights on high-value farm/forest properties to less valuable farm/forest properties

Staff layoffs harm our local economies and our hard work is valuable throughout the state. I urge you to eliminate the staff layoffs in the Rebalance Plan for Agency Reductions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Marvin, Ph.D.  
House District 8  
Senate District 4  
Eugene, OR, 97405



July 21, 2020

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair  
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Proposed Reductions to the DLCD Budget

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) represent Oregon's 241 cities and 36 counties. We write today to urge your consideration for the impact the proposed reductions will have on local governments' ability to meet the mandates set by Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Goals as well as recently enacted legislation.

Cities and counties work closely with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to uphold Oregon's 19 land use goals, which require cities and counties to consider local needs for housing, employment, roads, water, and infrastructure while ensuring sufficient green space and minimizing potential impacts to natural resources. These laws strongly emphasize coordination -- keeping plans and programs consistent with each other, with the goals, as statutes are updated, and with acknowledged local plans.

Many cities and counties do not have the staffing capacity to meet the current planning requirements and rely on technical assistance grants provided by DLCD to contract for their planning updates. Cuts to local technical assistance grants will prevent cities and counties from updating their plans for greatly needed housing, roads, and infrastructure. Technical assistance also enables local governments to meet various state and federal environmental regulations. In addition to technical assistance, cities and counties rely on DLCD staff to meet the 19 Statewide planning goals and coordinate local plans with other state and federal programs.

In addition to the many existing land use planning requirements, DLCD is midway through rulemaking and implementing two landmark housing planning bills, HB 2001 and HB 2003 which the Legislature enacted in 2019 and heralded as solutions to Oregon's housing shortage. The proposed cuts would have a detrimental effect on the Department's ability to effectively implement that legislation and work with cities and counties to meet the bills' extensive new housing planning requirements. Additional proposed cuts to regional, policy, and communications

staff at DLCD would severely impair the Department's ability to communicate and coordinate among their state and local partners.

In short, the proposed cuts to the DLCD budget wouldn't just penalize the Department, they would also prevent cities and counties from meeting the mandates under Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Goals and recently enacted legislation. We recognize the very difficult budget realities facing our state and hope you and your colleagues will consider the downstream effects these cuts have on your local partners.

Sincerely,

Ariel Nelson, on behalf of the League of Oregon Cities

[anelson@orcities.org](mailto:anelson@orcities.org)

Mallorie Roberts, on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties

[mroberts@oregoncounties.org](mailto:mroberts@oregoncounties.org)



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

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[www.oregon.gov/LCD](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD)

July 22, 2020

The Honorable Jeff Reardon  
The Honorable Kathleen Taylor  
Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee  
900 Court St NE, Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

[jwmnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jwmnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)



Dear Co-Chairs Reardon and Taylor,

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) would like to offer alternative cuts to the Committee and Legislative Fiscal Office. A brief description and rationale of the alternative cuts is provided below:

*Using the HB 2001 technical assistance grant fund, DLCD was able to fund all local government applicants for HB 2001 housing funds (local middle housing ordinances). By utilizing a small contingency of those funds (\$185,000) and making a minor adjustment in total grant amounts of 2.5% per grant, we can retain two valuable positions:*

- *Item 309: Metro Area Regional Representative. The position is essential to helping with the processing and technical support for HB 2001 compliance for large cities. The department has awarded 13 technical assistance grants for implementation of HB 2001 and HB 2003 to communities in Washington and Multnomah Counties that rely on this position to provide expert DLCD technical and strategic assistance (\$145,000).*
- *Item 292/303: Legislative Coordinator. The position is partially funded by HB 2001 funds, assisting with the housing rulemaking, constituent response, local government issues and associated implementation issues. (\$77,000+35,000).*

As always, please let the department know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Rue, Director

cc: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office; Robin McArthur, Kirstin Greene, Carol Bovett, Palmer Mason

July 22, 2020

Anne Debbaut Testimony: Oregon House Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

Good Morning Co-Chair Reardon, Co-Chair Taylor and Sub-Committee Members. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Land Conservation and Development. My name is Anne Debbaut and I work for the Department of Land Conservation and Development and am testifying on my own behalf. I am one of two Planner 3 regional representatives in the Portland-Metro region, one of which is proposed to be unfunded.

My region includes Washington County, Washington County cities (North Plains, Banks, Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Beaverton, King City, Durham, Tigard and Tualatin), the city of Portland and cities in Columbia County (Scappoose, Columbia City, St. Helens, and Rainier). I am one of nine field representatives around the state. The two representatives responsible for the three-county Portland Metro region cover about 42% of the state's population. And in fact, my region as described above, comprises about 30% of the state's population alone.

DLCD certainly has regulatory responsibilities, however I see us as very much a community development organization, now particularly focused on equitable housing development strategies, economic development, and land use and transportation greenhouse gas emissions reductions – all particularly critical components under the present circumstances.

Right now I am the project manager for 13 HB 2001 middle housing grant projects, including one for a prototype housing production strategy for the city of Tualatin. In addition I currently manage three technical assistance grants, one example of which is an industrial area infrastructure and development Master Plan for the City of St. Helens. We don't just manage the grant funds as field representatives, we help draft the project scopes and make sure each community is really getting what they need and not just checking boxes. We participate in project management and technical advisory committee meetings – as many as is possible. In years past, more than 3-4 grants would be considered a lot of grant projects to manage.

In addition to grant projects, we work directly with local jurisdictions and their constituents, responding to land use and transportation needs and bringing important issues back to the department. It's all about focusing on local needs for community development and having the personal relationships to accomplish the work that needs to be done. We advocate for our communities at both our agency and the Regional Solutions Teams and all Oregon residents benefit.

If there isn't a regional representative, we lose the ties between local jurisdictions and the state. When this happens, it is easy for the agency to lose touch with local issues and similarly for locals to lose the ethos of genuine cooperation and the efficient sharing of information can disappear. We all learn from one another's successes and failures.

The removal of a Metro region Planner 3 position will have a significant negative effect on current planning activities. We are a very worthy state investment with far reaching economic impacts!

Thank you very much for your time. Please keep this DLCD Planner 3 position in the front of your mind as you continue the budget cuts and discussions and retain this position.

**Subject:** Deep cuts to DLCD budget and workforce  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:23:50 PM

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RE: Deep cuts to DLCD budget and workforce

23 July 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and members of the Ways and Means Natural Resources Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to write to you about the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Land Conservation and Development. I am providing this perspective as the President of AFSCME Local 3772, the represented employees of DLCD.

You face an unenviable task. In these difficult circumstances, **I encourage you to reconsider the deep, disproportionate cuts to DLCD.**

While most agencies in the Natural Resources group are being asked to balance their budget with vacancies and other savings, with perhaps one or two existing positions being cut, DLCD (a small agency) is holding vacancies, giving back many other savings, and being asked to cut six existing positions (four represented).

DLCD works with 240 cities and 36 counties to implement Oregon's 19 planning goals and associated rules. We do all of this - from coastal management, economic development, farmland preservation, to city and transportation planning, and more - with fewer than 70 employees. The breadth and depth of our work is tremendous.

**When we succeed in our work, Oregon's communities thrive.** Oregonians get more affordable housing, better transportation choices, strong local economies, more efficient public services, and retention of farmland and forestland in production. Our natural resources are protected, developers know what to expect, and Oregonians can help shape the future of their communities.

Lately, we've particularly been tasked with boosting housing supply and choice, and to help reduce global warming pollution, adding to our overfull plates. We're glad to do this important work.

While some of our positions are federally funded, the general fund part of our budget has been dramatically slashed in this draft budget (even beyond the Governor's budget exercise). Losing 6 of about 66 employees, plus vacancies on top of it, means we're losing more than 10% of our workforce, and probably more than 20% of our general fund staff. You can imagine how hard this would be, were similar scale cuts be proposed at the legislature.

Those proposed cuts mean we do less, and what we do, we do less well. Our citizen involvement specialist (communications) is scheduled to be cut, as is our database administrator, our Measure 49 specialist, a natural resources specialist, a Metro Regional Representative, and a legislative coordinator. That means other staff spread thinner, less engagement with community members and local governments, less fair regulations, a less productive department, and less well-planned futures for our communities. These are real impacts that cut deeply at Oregon's adopted planning goals.

As a parent of two school-age kids, I'm a big believer in funding schools. But holding the schools budget completely untouched, and dipping not very much into reserves or new revenues, while taking large cuts to DLCD, seems counterproductive for my kids' health and future.

Thanks for considering this as you go forward. We understand DLCD's budget will have to be cut; but feel the cuts in our grants, other items, and vacancies covers our fair share. **Our local union is happy to work with you to find solutions to better balance our many priorities.**

Thanks for your service to Oregon, and for grappling with these difficult decisions.



Sincerely,

Evan Manvel  
President, AFSCME Local 3772  
Salem, Oregon  
he/him/his



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July 23, 2020

To: Co-Chairs Representative Jeff Reardon and Senator Kathleen Taylor  
Members of Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

From: Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director

Re: Co-Chair Rebalancing Plan for Natural Resource Agencies

1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

This letter focuses on proposed budget cuts for the Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD), the state agency charged with overseeing Oregon's nation-leading land use program. We appreciate that in the face of the unprecedented economic hardship caused by this global pandemic and its sudden impact on state and household budgets, that the Joint Ways & Means Committee has a difficult and heart-wrenching task.

DLCD is a small agency, and therefore unlike some other natural resource agencies, it will not be able to meet most of its budget reductions by simply not filling vacant positions; rather, DLCD will have to cut 6 existing staff, or somewhere close to 10% of current staff. The practical effect of the cuts reflected in items 298-304 of the *Co-chairs' 2020 Rebalance Plan - Agency Reduction Detail* will be to carve directly into the work that the legislature directed DLCD to do: ensure that all cities provide housing for all Oregonians, of every income level.

Pursuant to HB 2001 and HB 2003, DLCD has brought on outstanding staff who are doing excellent work to ensure that the agency is delivering on every product and policy directed by the legislature. Just today, the Land Conservation & Development Commission adopted the first set of administrative rules pursuant to this legislation, addressing one major element of HB 2001. This will now move to cities for implementation, where funding for grants and technical assistance from DLCD will be critical, yet those are also proposed to be cut.

Without continuing funding for this work, Oregon's cities will continue to struggle to do the planning and zoning and to adopt the other tools necessary to meet the housing needs of all Oregonians. Our decades-long failure to match zoning with the housing needs of all Oregonians will fall particularly hard on those of lower income, and Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color. The housing insecurity of so many highlighted by the current health and budget crisis is not the time to cut funds that will help cities provide more diverse and affordable housing.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

**Subject:** Rebalance Plan for Agency Reductions  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:35:48 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to oppose the proposed staff layoffs at the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD).

As you may know, DLCD was formed with the creation of the Oregon land use planning system. Land use planning is a cornerstone of what makes Oregon a special place and it has helped preserve and protect the beauty of our state for decades.

Having worked at other government agencies in my career, I can tell you that DLCD, which is already a very small agency, operates on a lean budget with essentially no waste. In fact, I would argue that DLCD is greatly underfunded given its mission and importance to the long term health of Oregon overseeing all planning in the state for land use, transportation, farm and forest uses, coastal lands, economic development and others.

DLCD employees some of the most educated, smartest, most passionate people I have ever experienced in my working life as a professional land use and transportation planner. We ensure orderly development of our cities, farmlands, coastline and high desert. We assist every city and county in the state to do good floodplain development, help smaller communities in economic development, facilitate the issuance of federal and private grants and the list goes on and on. If there is one agency that deserves support, it's DLCD, the agency that oversees Oregon's justly world famous land use and transportation planning system.

Thank you,  
Jason Gately  
Floodplain Development and Natural Hazards Planner  
AFSCME Local 3772 Member

**Subject:** DLCD Position budget cuts  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:41:48 PM

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Dear Co-Chairs Reardon and Taylor and members of the Ways and Means Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Land Conservation and Development. My name is Ingrid Caudel and I am providing this perspective as a member of AFSCME Local 3772, the represented employees of DLCD.

*I wish to commend and highlight the testimony of David Smith the Database Administrator at DLCD. As he pointed out he is the only person in this position making his expertise essential. I am responsible for processing plan amendments which I do via the database that Mr. Smith created. I regularly need his assistance to help me continue this work. Prior to the creation of the database, processing of plan amendments was a full time position. Tremendous savings in budget and time have been created due to Mr. Smith's expertise and continued support.*

*I ask you to continue discussions on finding alternate solutions for budget cuts other than the loss of such essential personnel.*

Sincerely,  
Ingrid Caudel  
Member/Leader, AFSCME Local 3772

Dear Co-Chairs Reardon and Taylor and members of the Ways and Means Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Land Conservation and Development. My name is Bill Holmstrom and I am providing this perspective as a member of AFSCME Local 3772, the represented employees of DLCD.

DLCD is a small agency, but we are an important part of protecting the place we live. We work together with local governments across the state to ensure that the Oregon we love will be here for future Oregonians. Without exception, I find that everyone that works here has a desire to serve, and brings important skills and experience to the state.

Before my time at DLCD, I worked as a planner in a rural county. We knew we could count on DLCD staff to help us out when we needed it. I was happy to have the opportunity to pass that on to others when I came to work at the state.

Frankly, even when things were looking good earlier this year, our agency was under-resourced to do all of the good work that we would like to do for Oregon's communities. We work hard but are stretched thin. We would all like to be able to do more to help improve the economic, environmental, and social well-being of communities all over the state.

I understand that the decisions in front of you are difficult, and there are no easy answers. However the loss of any of our small staff, both my represented coworkers and those in the management service, would diminish the high level of service that we expect to provide to Oregon's communities.

We have had discussions at our union local about protecting our colleagues' jobs, and I will continue to participate in those discussions to find a way to keep as many people as possible.

Sincerely,  
Bill Holmstrom  
Member, AFSCME Local 3772