



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 17, 2020

Natural Resources Subcommittee
Co-Chair Kathleen Taylor
Co-Chair Jeff Reardon
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Budget impacts of SB 1530

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon:

Late Friday evening, an agenda was posted for our Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources that included a work session on SB 1530. As a member of this subcommittee, I believe we have a responsibility to the people of Oregon, and to our colleagues in the Legislature who rely on our recommendations, to thoroughly review each piece of legislation for its impacts on our state budget. Accordingly, I spent my weekend reviewing this bill and quickly realized our committee, with budget impacts specifically in mind, clearly lacks enough information to make a fully informed recommendation regarding this bill.

A preliminary fiscal impact statement issued by the Legislative Fiscal Office identified more than 20 different state agencies and local governments that would be financially affected by SB 1530. That list includes: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD), Housing and Community Services Department (HCSD), Special Districts, Cities, Counties, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Forestry (ODF), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLC), Department of Employment (OED), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Legislative Revenue Office (LRO), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Public Utility Commission (PUC), and Metro.

Each of these agencies provide Oregonians and our government itself with information and critical services we rely on every day. I believe it is our responsibility to hear from each of these government units to hear specifically how they would be impacted by SB 1530, whether burdening them with this legislation would compromise their ability to carry out the duties they have already been charged with, and to what extent they will need additional financial resources. To the degree we will need to allocate

additional funds to accommodate this legislation, I fear what that could mean for other areas of our budget including K-12 education funding, health care and human services. It is critical that we go to the greatest lengths possible to get a clearer picture about how this legislation would impact our state budget before we move forward.

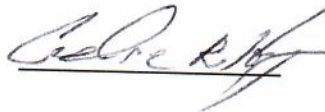
Finally, I was disappointed but not surprised to read comments from the Legislative Revenue Office last week that suggested there would not be enough time to conduct a thorough study of SB 1530 for its revenue impacts. It's unrealistic to expect our nonpartisan staff to be able to provide a high quality analysis of such a sweeping program in so little time. However, it's also unacceptable for us to advance this legislation without a better understanding of the impacts of this bill. While this committee is charged with dealing with appropriations and fiscal impacts, I believe we have a responsibility to look at both sides of the financial ledger when we conduct our work. I urge you to consider recommending this bill be referred to the revenue committees for further analysis once our committee has completed its review.

Given the clear fiscal and revenue impacts of SB 1530, I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that this legislation receives the appropriate level of scrutiny from our subcommittee and that a full revenue analysis is conducted in advance of a floor vote in either chamber. I look forward to partnering with you in this effort.

Sincerely,



Christine Drazan
House Republican Leader
House District 39



Cedric Hayden
State Representative
House District 7



Vikki Breese Iverson
State Representative
House District 55