

# CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



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TO: Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee  
FROM: Sandy Belson, Comprehensive Planning Manager, City of Springfield  
DATE: February 22, 2021  
RE: Support for SB 5530

The City of Springfield appreciates the opportunity to express its support for the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) budget as detailed in SB 5530. As the administrative arm of the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) – whose mission is to help communities and citizens plan for, protect, and improve the built and natural systems that provide a high quality of life – DLCD is a critical partner in our land use planning work.

Where we live, where we work, how we move to get to these places, and how we grow as a city matters. From tackling issues of statewide concern to questions about development options for a particular property, land use planning in Oregon is comprehensive and coordinated. State requirements, regional planning efforts, and local plans specific to Springfield direct decisions about the best reuse of developed sites and the appropriate use of undeveloped land.

With the increasing policy requirements related to housing, including HBs 2001 and 2003 from the 2019 legislative session, the City of Springfield relies on the components included in DLCD's policy option package devoted to Housing Choice and Supply. Without the local grants and technical assistance support offered by DLCD, we would not be able to undertake the increasing workload as our resources and capacity are almost to a breaking point.

The City of Springfield would also like to express concern about the possible reductions in FTE. It is our experience that the topic experts, especially the goal specialists, have been critical for the development and implementation of the complex and layered work of land use planning. Without their expertise, there will be increased pressure on the grant funding and technical assistance opportunities, along with increasing reliance on the DLCD field representatives who are often already stretched very thin.

Lastly, Springfield is in one of the MPOs that will be affected by the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rulemaking. We not only need the state to take the lead in addressing climate change, we also need DLCD's technical assistance both in terms of their expertise, as well as funding, to identify the levers within the purview of local government that will actually have an impact on reducing climate change and creating equitable communities.

In order for cities to do this work and do it with fidelity, the support and resources provided by DLCD are critical. We encourage your continued support of the Department of Land Conservation and Development. Thank you.