



## ALEX CUYLER

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Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
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DATE: February 8, 2024  
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
FROM: Alex Cuyler, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
RE: SB 1575, relating to construction agreements

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners adopt a series of Legislative Principles in advance of each Legislative Assembly, including:

- Monitor state policies to ensure new obligations are funded and contain adequate provisions to address embedded liabilities.

SB 1575 and the proposed dash 1 amendment do not align with this principle, and in fact increase Lane County's exposure to future litigation. For this reason, we are opposed to SB 1575 and ask that the Committee take no further action on this measure.

Lane County as an organization has taken a pro-active approach to reducing our risk exposure across all of its various public service delivery programs, and this work is fundamental to ensuring fiscal responsibility and meeting the expectations of our taxpayers.

We routinely contract with engineering and design professionals to help us construct and maintain roads, buildings, telecommunications infrastructure, water and wastewater projects, solid waste disposal sites, public safety and criminal justice facilities, and medical equipment installations. These are contractual relationships, backed by formal procedures that include indemnification agreements and proof of insurance and or bonds to protect Lane County from undo risk exposure.

We well understand the trends occurring in the world of commercial insurance. SB 1575 shifts an enormous new risk onto local government, when we too are struggling against the same tides of insurability and ever-increasing premiums.

We do concede that insurability of public services is becoming more and more of an urgent policy issue and would be happy to work with the State to explore alternative and more creative solutions to these issues. We recognize that ultimately taxpayers are directly impacted by these growing costs whether they occur within our organization or without but that issue is likely best addressed in a longer session of the Legislature.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER