



February 4, 2025

To: Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources  
Representative Emerson Levy, Co- Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources  
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

From: Emily Griffith, Oregon Policy Manager, Renewable Northwest

**Re: Support for SB 5528: Department of Land Conservation and Development Budget**

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, and members of the committee,

Renewable Northwest (“RNW”) is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based here in Oregon, dedicated to decarbonizing the region by accelerating the transition to renewable electricity. Our members include renewable energy developers and businesses, environmental organizations, and consumer groups. Renewable Northwest is pleased to support SB 5528, Department of Land Conservation and Development Budget.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (“DLCD”) plays a crucial role in achieving Oregon’s clean energy mandate (HB2021) as the lead agency on Oregon’s Land-Use System. As such, the Oregon Legislature has charged DLCD with energy-related tasks and rulemakings<sup>1</sup> regarding the siting of clean energy infrastructure - both onshore and offshore - and that bring together stakeholders to address very difficult and complicated land-use questions. DLCD’s facilitation of these discussions and rulemakings bring us closer to solutions that support reaching our clean energy goals while balancing continued protection of Oregon’s valued resources.

While we fully support DLCD’s budget request so that the agency will be sufficiently resourced to carry out its important work, we are concerned about the lack of energy-related policy option packages in this biennium’s budget and worry that DLCD may be under-resourced for its essential energy-related work. As noted above, DLCD plays an important role in managing Oregon’s land-use system and this extends to working with county governments to implement this system. A well-resourced agency is essential to continuing this work and finding ways to accommodate the renewable energy projects needed for Oregon to continue its progress

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<sup>1</sup> HB 4080 (2024), Offshore Wind Roadmap; HB 3409 (2023), Climate Package (Solar Siting) and associated Eastern Oregon Solar Siting Rulemaking; HB 3179 (2023), Modify Jurisdiction for Solar and associated Rulemaking; and more.

towards grid decarbonization in a way that integrates counties and considers the complicated pressures on Oregon's land-use values.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Griffith", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Emily Griffith  
Oregon Policy Manager  
**Renewable Northwest**