



COMMISSIONER RYAN CENIGA, District 1, West Lane

PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING / 125 EAST 8TH AVENUE / EUGENE, OR 97401

March 11, 2025

House Committee on Revenue
HB 3518—Relating to Funding County Assessment Functions

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee:

As a Commissioner for Lane County, I strongly support HB 3518, which will provide much-needed stability and equity in funding for county Assessment and Taxation (A&T) functions. By increasing and indexing CAFFA funding and dedicating a portion of property tax revenues, this bill ensures counties have the resources to accurately assess property, fairly distribute tax burdens, and maximize revenues for critical local services.

For years, counties have struggled to fully fund A&T operations due to the loss of state support for CAFFA. This has led to:

- Lost revenue from unreported property improvements and underreported business assets.
- Reduced service levels, particularly for vulnerable populations like veterans seeking tax exemptions.
- Chronic understaffing—Lane County operates with only 48 FTE despite a recommended 76.

Despite these challenges, Lane County certified \$720.9 million in taxes for 85 taxing districts in FY 2024-25 and added \$2.37 billion in new taxable value, generating \$4.72 million in additional revenue. However, this revenue isn't automatic—it is the direct result of A&T staff doing the work to ensure properties are properly valued and taxes are collected.

HB 3518 helps restore CAFFA's original intent by covering 25% of A&T costs instead of the current 12%, ensuring counties can maintain fair taxation, improve tax collection, and provide stable funding for essential services like public safety, schools, and infrastructure.

I urge your support for HB 3518. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vice-Chair Ryan Ceniga
West Lane District