County Planning Directors:

DLCD has retained Angelo Planning Group as the consultant on the Multi County Code Update Project. The project is kicking off and we invite you to participate. We are excited about the project and the potential value it has for Oregon counties – both short- and long-term. We are now seeking county planners who are interested in serving on regional Project Teams that will provide input to the consultant in the development of model EFU and forest zones and templates for application forms and staff reports. Later this year, after the completion of the model zones, the consultant will work with interested counties one-on-one to tailor the model zones to meet local needs.

We invite each of you or a staff planner to participate on a regional Project Team, even if your county does not need to update its resource zones. Your experience and recommendations on effective approaches to resource zone implementation would be very helpful to other counties. If you cannot serve on a regional Project Team, you will have the opportunity to provide other valuable input as described later in this letter. (Earlier inquiries indicated that no Willamette Valley counties expect to update their code through this project. We still would like a Valley Project Team for model code development, though.)

The project will take place over the next 12 months in three phases:

Phase 1 will result in development of the first draft of the model zones and will identify uniform requirements for model EFU, forest and mixed farm-forest zones that reflect non-discretionary statutory and rule requirements. Counties will have the opportunity to comment on these draft zones.

In Phase 2, Project Teams will assist the consultant in the development of discretionary elements for the draft model zones. The regional teams will represent Eastern Oregon, the Willamette Valley and Western Oregon outside the Willamette Valley. The consultant will incorporate the discretionary elements into the draft model zones as directed by the Project Teams, and also develop a set of user-friendly application forms and staff report templates that counties may use if they wish. DLCD will post these templates and the model resource zones online.

In Phase 3, the consultant will coordinate with each of at least six counties to tailor the model zones to meet local needs by facilitating local meetings and providing hearings-ready code
amendments. In addition, the consultant will be available for consultation over the phone and via e-mail or online meetings to assist additional counties with questions related to local resource zone update and implementation.

The consultant on this project will be Darci Rudzinski from the Angelo Planning Group. I will be your contact for the project, and may be contacted at: katherine.daniels@state.or.us or 503-934-0069. DLCD will create a webpage for the project that you can check to keep up with the project as it evolves.

As we start the project, we would like to ask each of you for examples of discretionary elements of your EFU and forest zones that work especially well for your county and that you would recommend to others. Examples of discretionary zone elements include:

- Zone purpose statements
- Definitions
- Review process (i.e. ministerial, administrative, public hearing, etc.)
- Local review criteria in addition to those required by statute or rule
- Siting and design standards

Please send a description or webpage link of recommended sections to me by June 10.

In a few weeks we will send you copies of the first draft EFU and forest zones (non-discretionary elements only). We would welcome any feedback you may have on these drafts.

Again, we invite each county to participate on the regional Project Teams, even if there is no current interest in updating local resource zones. In addition to reviewing draft materials and commenting, the time commitment includes two meetings, one in your region this summer and one anticipated to be in Newport, in association with the annual AOC meeting in November. Even if you cannot serve on a regional Project Team, please contact me if you are interested in the project so that we can better keep you informed.

Please let me know if you would like to participate on one of the Project Teams by June 6th. Thank-you!

Katherine