



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

September 10, 2015

Chairman Macpherson
Land Conservation and Development Commission
635 Capitol Street N.E., Ste 150
Salem, OR 97301-2540

Dear Chair Macpherson,

I am writing to thank you for your support of land use and transportation interests for Washington County in the last biennium and express support for several items in your policy agenda for 2015-2017. With your support, the 2015 legislature approved two bills that were important to Washington County: HB 2458 technical amendments to previous HB 4078 for urban and rural reserves and HB 2457 that resolved barriers to development on property straddling the UGB.

I would like to express support for several projects of interest to the Department of Land Use & Transportation in the proposed policy agenda:

- **Goal 5 Rule Amendments related to the Endangered Species Act and the National Flood Insurance Program.** The County supports the direction proposed in this agenda to amend the state administrative rules to simplify the local implementation of amended federal standards or rules that we anticipate will emerge from the NFIP/ESA process. We also encourage the Department to continue to take an active role in advocating for the anticipated Reasonable and Prudent Actions (RPAs) to reflect existing urban and rural development needs and implementation feasibility.
- **Farmland Protection Improvements.** Washington County experiences first-hand the interest in commercial activities in conjunction with farm use and private parks, as well as new agri-tourism activities. We would like to participate in and/or track the proposed rulemaking for farmland protection improvements.
- **Affordable housing.** Housing affordability will continue to generate discussion in Washington County and the Metro area. For this reason, we are interested in learning how new housing types, such as 'Tiny Houses', and code changes may offer new housing affordability opportunities.
- **Goal 9 Industrial Lands.** We support the proposed efforts for revising Goal 9 Industrial Lands. While most of the industrial land is in cities or planned to be annexed, Washington County joins with our municipal partners in serving and planning for this growth. We could benefit from improvements in the industrial land analysis, planning and coordination process.

**Department of Land Use & Transportation
Office of the Director**

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- **Technical Amendments Concerning Road Alignments in Rural Areas.** We support the technical amendments concerning road alignments in rural areas and the flexibility to meet these transportation needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Andrew Singelakis, AICP
Director of Land Use & Transportation

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