



# Oregon

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **DLCD Mourns Death of Former Director Jim Rue**

SALEM - Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of the former Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD or department), Jim Rue. Jim died at his home earlier this week following a brief battle with cancer.

Jim was an incredible husband, father, grandparent, colleague and friend, and he will be missed.

Former Director Rue was an consistent advocate for Oregon and Oregon's land use program. He built and nurtured an excellent staff and forged solid working relationships with commissioners, stakeholders, peers, the Governor's Office, and legislators. During his 12-year tenure at DLCD, Director Rue expanded its focus to increase housing and transportation options, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reach out to Oregonians who have not typically been included in important conversations about where and how to develop their neighborhoods.

Jim's passion for his work was rivalled by his love of farming. He and his wife Mignon lived on working farmland in Marion County where he spent his weekends tending the property, crops, and goats. His inclination for a farmer's schedule followed him to work, where he would arrive before anyone else in the morning and greet each employee as they came through the door.

Jim's last day at DLCD was Friday, April 29, 2022. He was replaced by Dr. Brenda Ortigoza Bateman.

"His contributions to this agency were significant and many," said Dr. Bateman of her late colleague. "His high regard for staff and vision for the future are things I try emulate as I steward DLCD in our work."

Jim was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer only a few short weeks after retiring. Although he had started to pursue treatment; he recently returned home to enter hospice care.

Known for his calm and caring demeanor, easy laugh, and ability to connect with anyone in a conversation, Jim inspired DLCD employees to be their best selves and stay focused on building a better future for Oregon.

Sharing thoughts upon his retirement, Jim was extremely grateful to have had the opportunity for public service; calling this work “the honor of a lifetime.”

In his many years of service to the state, his passion for climate action was met with opportunity in 2020 when Governor Brown issued an executive order directing state agencies to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. In partnership with the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC or commission), Director Rue and staff forged a rulemaking effort to create climate friendly and equitable communities. The permanent rules for this effort are anticipated to be adopted by the commission later this week.

Increasing the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts of the agency was an area of similar passion for Jim. Under his leadership, staff formed an internal DEI committee, and more inclusive hiring practices were put in place. During the period of social unrest that accompanied the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020, Jim was kind but direct with staff, challenging us all to “do the work” and to walk the talk.

Colleagues throughout the enterprise have reached out to express their sorrow at this tremendous loss for DLCD and for Oregon.

Jim is survived by his wife Mignon, his son and daughter Seth and Leah, and his granddaughters Charlotte and Olivia.

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