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DATE: April 30, 2014
TO: Lane County Budget Committee
RE: State and Federal Legislative Issues

Committee Members:

I understand at your April 29th meeting, the issue of future state and federal legislative updates was asked for, especially with regard to the County's budget for FY15. Here are several items that bear watching:

FEDERAL

- Lane County is especially watching the evolution of federal timber policy. This session of Congress has seen the House pass HR 1526, a bill that would reform the way National Forests are managed. That bill has several sections that address the O&C Lands management structure, authored by Oregon's Congressmen DeFazio, Schrader, and Walden. While unlikely to pass the Senate, S. 1784 has been introduced in the Senate, and is Senator Wyden's O&C specific bill that would also reform management on those lands. These two bills are significant in that it is the first time we have seen related measures in each chamber in the same session of Congress. As a result, the hope is for a conference committee that would produce a measure that could gain the President's signature. This may be dependent upon Congress's calendar, as we are nearing the halfway mark of this session. O&C revenue is discretionary, and historically would consist of approximately \$15M annually to Lane County. The House measure was targeting a return of historic revenue to Oregon's O&C counties.

STATE

- The 2015 Oregon Legislature will continue to hear issues related to the structural inequities of Oregon's property tax system. It is likely this conversation will be couched within a broader discussion of tax reform that could be championed by Governor Kitzhaber if he is re-elected.
- The Association of Oregon Counties has been setting the stage for a series of bills focusing on county issues related to the delivery of public safety services. That effort will focus on three arenas:
 - Adequate funding for Deputy District Attorneys. Salaries are the responsibility of local government, currently.
 - A new Juvenile Justice funding package. Current funding is a mix between state and local.
 - Increased funding for mental health services especially targeted at those who intersect with the local public safety system.