



Lane County Board of Commissioners

Bill Dwyer
Bill Fleenor
Rob Handy
Pete Sorenson
Faye Hills Stewart

W. G. A.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

January 22, 2010
WD bc/bf/10006/T

Congressman Peter A. DeFazio
2134 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Over the past six months, the Lane County Board of County Commissioners has taken a number of steps to prepare for what we know is the single most important issue for every one of our residents, and that is the re-authorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act. Your efforts during the waning hours of the 110th Congress were practically super human, but were hopefully somewhat eased by the work that Lane County had contributed to prior to that effort through both our direct lobbying efforts and the provision of fiscal resources necessary to bring the issue to the fore.

As we gear up for the lobbying effort we expect to undertake for the next two years, we thought this would be a good opportunity to check in with you to share our plans and to seek your input about how we can best help you make this effort succeed. Here is a brief description of how the County is positioning itself in advance of the effort:

- Lane County is a member of the Association of O and C Counties and has contributed to their special advocacy fund in order to support federal lobbying activities related to Secure Rural Schools through calendar year 2010. County Commissioner Faye Stewart is a Board member of the Association.
- Lane County is a member of the National Association of Counties. Commissioners Faye Stewart and Pete Sorenson are members of the Association's Public Lands Committee and will attend the NaCo Legislative meeting in Washington during early March, 2010.
- Lane County continues to work on the issue of carbon sequestration on federal lands. We don't believe future revenue from carbon sequestration projects on federal lands will replace the revenue level provided through shared timber receipts or safety net legislation, but it could help. Our current efforts point to additional work needing to be done in creating offset protocols for federal land projects (so purchasers are able to purchase "compliance quality" offsets) as well as having Congress provide authority for federal lands to generate offset projects.

- Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart is a board member of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition. He will be travelling to Board meetings during 2010 which will purposefully bring him into close contact with county officials and legislators from House and Senate Districts outside of Oregon.
- Lane County is an active participant in the State Legislature. We are actively engaged in efforts to streamline costs and improve service delivery in the face of restricted revenues and will continue to lobby in support of actions identified within the Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services. We would welcome your input on the clout state legislators could bring to the discussion.
- Lane County representatives are prepared to visit Washington DC as necessary. We plan our annual United Front lobbying trip to discuss appropriation projects in March, but are willing to be involved with other direct lobbying activities as needed. We employ a lobbying firm in Washington, DC, Smith Dawson Andrews. SDA is on contract to assist us with efforts related to reauthorization in addition to the work they do for us on appropriations.

If you feel there are key elements of this effort that we are missing, or have other advice related to the reauthorization effort, please let us know. We continue to value the relationship with your local office, and are looking forward to working with both you and your staff during 2010.

Sincerely,

Bill Fleenor, Chair
Lane County Board of County Commissioners

attachment A W.G.B.

Attachment A
Lane County, Oregon
Board of County Commissioners
Spreadsheet for Legislative Review
75th Oregon Legislature Special Session
January 26, 2010

| Item # | Priority # | House- (1-3) | Senate | Bill # | Reviewer | Recommendation | Bill Summary | Staff's Analysis |
|--------|------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--|--|
| 1 | 3 | House | | 3600 (Esquivel) | Miller (Howe) | Oppose | Would allow County permit center an additional charge to what ORS 215.416 authorizes (no more than the actual or average cost of providing the service) to provide a premium service for processing of permits . | This could create the perception that those that have means may leapfrog over those who do not. Lane County already has a permit acceleration fee which provides for the use of overtime only. Planners work in a class exempt from overtime earning, and as such it is not a very well used tool. |
| 2 | 1 | House | | 3601 (Stiegler) | Burger | Support | Relating to driving while under the influence of intoxicants. Allows administrative law judge to conduct hearings via telephone, for a fee. | This bill will result in hundreds of hours of savings for Police Officers, Troopers, and Deputy Sheriff's who have to attend DMV hearings now, by allowing telephonic testimony. |
| 3 | 1 | House | | HB 3612 (Buckley) | Spickard | Monitor/Ammend | Relating to additional property taxes. Allows repayment, one tax year at a time, of additional property taxes owing due to correction of errot or omission of property in prior tax years. Currently back taxes are placed as a lump sum amount on the following year's tax statement and are due at the same time as other taxes. The current method for billing and collecting back taxes evolved from legislation and tax court rulings over the last 15 years. This bill reverts the method back to the old way of doing things prior to all of these "fixes" that were intended to streamline and simplify the process. | County assessors and tax collectors are opposed to it as written. The DOR has also expressed concern. It will create significant administrative burden and complexity for both the A&T system and for the property owner. It will also affect the ability of escrow companies to clear the tax liens prior to closing real estate sales because there is no ability for the owner to prepay the future tax liens. It may create tax foreclosure consequences for property owners as well depending on their specific situation. Additionally, the county and other tax districts should also be concerned about having to wait up to 5 years to receive the back property taxes to which they are entitled. It basically amounts to an interest free loan from the districts to the property owners that owe back taxes. |

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| 4 | 1 | House | 3631 (Van Orman) | Hays | Support | Relating to insurer discrimination against victims of violence. Provides that insurers may not treat injuries sustained from sexual violence as a preexisting condition for coverage, underwriting, or rating purposes. | Important that victims not punished for acts of abusers. Important that victims get treatment they need to recover from effects of these violent crimes. Discrimination prohibition sends important statement to victims that they need not fear disclosing abuse will result in loss of coverage. Current law already prohibits this discrimination against victims of dv – the bill will extend the protection to SA victims. Bill also clarifies the parameters of current protection – makes it clear that both physical and mental health injuries as a result of dv/sa deserve treatment. |
| 4 | 1 | House | 3639 (G Smith) | Rockstroh | Support | Relating to student loan repayment program for providers of primary care. Establishes program for education loan repayment for providers of primary care (nurse practitioners, physicians, physician's assistants, provided they have worked in Oregon for 12 consecutive months). The repayment is the lesser of \$20K of the outstanding loan or \$10K. | We have a federal program dealing with loan forgiveness which has assisted us in getting some MDs and nurse practitioners. This is sort of the Oregon version that will provide the lesser of 20% of a provider's qualifying loan or \$10,000 after the person works in a primary practice for minimum of 12 consecutive months. This provides a little bit of incentive for MDs or NPs to stay in primary care. It's a very small amount of money compared to the federal forgiveness plan, but any bit helps to keep primary care practitioners, who seem to be a dwindling breed. Straw is included and woody biomass so we should support it. It also includes heat as renewable energy, which was not included before. It provides incentives to develop biomass projects from woody and ag waste. Tax credits are critical to creating to new jobs in this It will treat low value personal property mobile homes the same as low value small business personal property. It will be minimal impact to the administration of the tax system. It may save money for the tax collection function if this change results in fewer delinquent accounts |
| 5 | 1 | House | HB 3608 (Thompson, Sprenger, Spartz (McKenzie Bahr) | | Support | Relating to tax treatment of waste materials. Creates definition of bioenergy (to include heat). Creates and clarifies new tax credits, including transport of woody biomass, and for equipment collect or process waste materials. Requires OODE to conduct study of biomass facilities. | |
| 6 | 3 | House | HB 3640 (Hoyle) | Spickard | Neutral | Relating to cancellation of ad valorem tax assessment of personal property. In counties with over 340,000 population to cancel property tax assessments for manufactured structures taxable as personal property that are valued under \$12,500. | |

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| 7 | Senate | 1032 Committee on Environment | Hays and Rockstroh | Support | Relating to containers made with bisphenol A. Creates unlawful practice of making, selling, or distributing liquid or food in a container made with bisphenol A if the intended consumer is under three years of age. | Bisphenol A's have been in toxicologists' & environmental health's eyes for several years. I have been aware of research studies that pretty clearly indicate some sort of additive "hormonal mediator" messaging role for these ubiquitous plastic chemicals. FDA recently issued a warning about children's exposure; NIH panel expresses worry, etc. Chemical industry objects: "There are no studies that prove harm in human children." The bill actually only prohibits BPA's in little kid's food packaging, not in all packaging, or for reproductive age youth, where the possible risks are greater, hormones being what they are. |
| 8 | Senate | 1028 (Shields) | Spartz | Support | Relating to criminal offenders. Determines residency status of inmates for purposes of legislative and congressional redistricting. | This bill attempts to assign permanent residency for inmates in the state system. It would allow us to count in the census Lane county residents incarcerated elsewhere in the state. This gives us a little help in seeking federal and state allocations and appropriations that are population based. The Board should support it. |

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| 9 | 1 | Senate | 1022 (Edwards) | Miller | Support | Relating to urban public facilities. Allows Junction City to provide water and sewer facilities to certain parcels located outside of the UGB of Junction City incident to service expansion to state institution within urban growth boundary. | Lane County should support SB 1022. The Board did adopt Ordinance No. PA 1265 which expanded the JC Urban Growth Boundary to include the state owned land AND Grain Millers land south of the city. So Grain Millers is now ensured to be able to annex into the city and expand their industrial food processing facility on the new site. JC Council supports this bill. |
| 10 | 3 | Senate | 1018 and SJR 43 (Monroe) | Burger | Support | Relating to sobriety checkpoints. Takes effect only if SJR 43 is approved by people at next regular election (constitutional amendment). | Gives law enforcement another tool to prevent traffic fatalities caused by impaired drivers. |
| 11 | 1 | Senate | 1042 (Monnes Anderson) | Spartz | Support | Relating to local government tobacco taxes. Removes prohibition against local government imposition of taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products. | We should strongly support this bill. A 5 cent per pack tax would probably raise around \$1 million annually on a county-wide basis. |