



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



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Dear Ms. Gore:

I am writing today on behalf of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners to express our deep concerns that federal funding to carry out the Oregon Coastal Management Program may be substantially reduced. We understand the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) may have their funds cut because they have failed to submit an approvable Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

First, let me say, that as the Director of the Lincoln County Planning and Development Department, our staff is on the front lines of controlling growth and conserving coastal resources. Our Department receives \$27,000 a year from DLCD to support our program. It is an important part of our budget. Thankfully, Lincoln County is in good financial shape. *If we have to* we can probably absorb the blow to our budget. Alas, though, many jurisdictions on the Oregon Coast are in desperate financial shape. The loss of any funds to those jurisdictions will have devastating consequences for their programs.

Second, CZM funds make it possible to have a professional staff at the DLCD. In Oregon, we have a storied state-wide land use planning program. It was Oregon's coastal program, launched in 1970, with state legislation, that provided needed momentum that led to the enactment the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). I am a student of the history of the CZMA. That is *not* an exaggeration. The successful land use program Oregon developed, especially for the coastal zone, is nuanced. And, in Oregon, we have a huge coastal zone. We count on technical assistance from professional staff at DLCD's Coastal Program. That technical assistance helps us, at the local level, make the trains run on time. Making the process *timely and fair* is key to retaining public support.

Third, compared with most other states, Oregon controls growth very effectively. *Only small portions of Lincoln County, for instance, are open to residential development and urban level densities of development.* When you look at the landscapes in Oregon, even places close to our more populated regions, one is struck at how effectively growth is controlled. Moreover, for the most part, our forests and our waters teem with wildlife. I'm sure you are aware that we also have a robust network of watershed councils in Oregon tasked with improving water quality.

Our Coastal Zone Management (CZM) system is not perfect. Still, it remains the envy of informed conservationists and land use planning professionals who understand the challenges and political realities of controlling growth.

Frankly, it's difficult for us to comprehend that our efforts in Oregon to protect water quality in the coastal zone merit a major loss of funding. We need to be rewarded, not penalized. Taking away substantial percentages of federal funding for coastal management will be counterproductive. It will not make the water any cleaner. In many settings, it will take years to recover from the loss of funding.

We urge you to examine the totality of Oregon's coastal zone management program. If there are things that can be improved, beyond the many effective things we already do, then let's have that conversation. In Oregon, though, we will need time to work these issues with influential constituencies impacted by the promulgation of even more land use control measures. In closing, please know that cutting the funding is *not* likely to enhance the probability that the changes you seek in Oregon's program will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

