



## APPEALS FEES & LEGAL JUSTICE

**CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT** is at the heart of Oregon's land use planning system. Active citizen participation in land use decision-making helps ensure that as Oregon grows, we do not lose what we love most about our state.

We support equal access to land use planning appeals for all Oregonians. We oppose charging the public thousands of dollars, as much as **eleven thousand dollars**, for a local land use appeal.

### WHO WE ARE

For 35 years, LandWatch has fought for sustainable, healthy communities in balance with nature, waterways and wildlife in Central Oregon.

Leveraging our legal expertise, policy analysis, and experience with Oregon's land use planning system, we bring public concerns about natural resources and urban growth to government decisions and negotiations with private interests.



Equal access to land use planning decisions is vital to preserving Oregon's working farms, forests, and landscapes.

### OUR CONCERN

The land use system cannot work to protect our shared conservation legacy unless every citizen has equal access to land use planning decisions. The costs for land use appeals in Oregon counties routinely exceed \$2,000, and neighbors have been turned away, unable to pay \$11,000 for a local land use appeal. At the same time, an appeal to the Oregon Court of Appeals and the Oregon Supreme Court costs only \$400.

### WHAT WE SUPPORT

The Oregon constitution provides that Oregon's courthouse doors are open to all: "justice shall be administered, openly and without purchase." But exorbitant local appeal fees slam the courthouse doors on the public who seek only to be heard.

LandWatch believes the cost of a local land use appeal should be the same as the cost of an appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court: approximately \$400. While the costs of processing land use applications may be recovered as fees from applicants for development, they should not be charged to the public. In this way Oregon's land use planning system will be open to all.

