



**CITY OF REDMOND**  
Office of the Mayor

716 SW Evergreen Avenue  
Redmond, OR 97756  
(541) 948-3219  
Fax: (541) 548-0706  
George.Endicott@ci.redmond.or.us  
[www.ci.redmond.or.us](http://www.ci.redmond.or.us)

February 16, 2012

Representative Cliff Bentz, Co-Chair  
Representative Dave Hunt, Co-Chair  
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development  
Oregon Legislature  
900 Court Street, Room 453  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 1544

Dear Co-Chairs Bentz and Hunt, Committee Members:

Good morning. I am George Endicott, Mayor of Redmond. My purpose here today is to testify in support of SB 1544, a bill that will allow for restoring industrial zoning to a 465 acre contiguous tract of land that could possibly be the largest industrial site in the state of Oregon. We would not normally ask state legislature for this action however circumstances for this site are very unique and the value of this site to the City, Central Oregon and the State of Oregon arguably warrants the state action. This 465 acre site was originally zoned industrial in Redmond's Comprehensive Plan and was rezoned to Open Space Park Reserve in 1980 to respond to a request from Deschutes County to locate their Fairgrounds on the site. When the County eventually located the Fairgrounds to another site, the City was not able to restore the site to industrial zoning due to issues associated with the Transportation Planning Rule. The mitigation project required per the Rule is a \$250 Million dollar US Highway 97 Reroute project, which quite frankly no one can afford to implement. However, we also cannot afford to let that obstacle prevent us (the City, Central Oregon or the State) from restoring the original industrial zoning to this site.

This particular site is very uniquely situated for economic development. It is served with water and sewer, is relatively flat topographically and is located adjacent to the Redmond Roberts Field Airport, the commercial airport that serves Central Oregon, and is owned by public agencies – the Redmond School District, Central Oregon Irrigation District and Deschutes County. We have had many different project interests in this site over the past ten years, none of which were able to move forward due to the inability to rezone the property. We cannot continue to watch these opportunities move on to other states.

In the past month we have worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Central Oregon Landwatch and 1000 Friends of Oregon on drafting the language that is in the bill before you today. All parties have expressed their support for this effort.

Central Oregon continues to suffer from extraordinarily high unemployment, 12% plus in many areas in the region. We have been struggling with a higher than state-wide average unemployment since the current recession started. State labor economists also estimate that Central Oregon will recover slower than the rest of the State.

Against this backdrop, we urge the Committee to support this bill. Designating a Central Oregon site as one of statewide economic interest, and allowing us to immediately start developing that site could greatly enhance our chances of attracting companies to the region, which would help tremendously with the economic malaise under which we suffer. Redmond is a great choice for such a pilot project. We have a long history of cooperation with State and other agencies, and we are centrally located in the region.

Redmond has planned mitigation in the Transportation System Plan to alleviate potential impacts on the State system. We have prioritized the build out of a planned local improvement as well as working with Deschutes County and ODOT on some improvements on the County road system immediately adjacent to Redmond.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Endicott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George Endicott,  
Mayor of Redmond