

VIA E-MAIL

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Re: SB 708

Dear Senators:

I understand that Senate Bill 708 (SB 708) is having its first public hearing on April 9, 2013. I write to express my strong support of enactment of SB 708.

This bill provides a long needed means for owners of land within the Damascus city limits to move forward with land use applications and economic development/job creation activity inside the city limits.

It is unfortunate that, as things stand now, land owners inside the city boundaries cannot file land use applications with the city and have them processed. After more than four years, landowners within the city limits, especially those with shovel ready projects, should not have to wait while Damascus endeavors to resolve the LCDC enforcement order that has been filed against it due to its lack of an acknowledged comprehensive plan.

Allowing land use applications to be filed with Clackamas County under the provisions of SB 708 will allow improvements and economic development to proceed after January 2014. At the same time, Clackamas County's acknowledged comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance will be followed to make sure that any development requests are fully and properly reviewed. SB 708 also allows the county to use urban density that is normally applicable to lands inside a city and METRO's plans for lands within the city limits in processing land use applications.

Passage of SB 708 will allow job creation in the Damascus city limits commencing January 1, 2014, and certainly you all know we need jobs in Oregon, especially family wage jobs.

I served on the Damascus City Council for six years and do not see a compromise in sight between the various groups that have either supported or not supported a Comprehensive Plan.

It's time to move forward.

Sincerely,

*Diana Helm*

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