

TESTIMONY OF STEVE MYSINGER
APRIL 9, 2013

- GDI owns 23 acres of land in the City of Damascus. GDI wishes to build a new center of operations for its business. GDI has worked cooperatively with the City of Damascus over the last 4 ½ years so that the new operations center can be built. Our project is “shovel ready” and we need it to be finalized now.

- After all this time and effort, GDI still cannot file a land use application on its property and proceed with the construction of its new center of operations so its business can operate efficiently and grow. We have 120 employees and \$19 million dollars of annual economic impact. We can grow these numbers with a new facility.

- In late September of 2012, GDI applied to have its land temporarily de-annexed from Damascus. It worked carefully with Damascus and Clackamas County on this application so that the land could be returned to the county so the county would have authority to process a land use application. This was an effort to allow the construction of the GDI's new operations center to proceed.

- During a work session on February 28, the Damascus City Council unexpectedly removed the matter from the March 4 council agenda. It did so without any prior notice to GDI.

- On March 11, 2013, GDI sent the Damascus City Council a written request for reconsideration. On March 12, 2013 the Mayor of Damascus sent GDI a letter denying reconsideration.

- GDI supports enactment of a rational solution to the lack of land use process in the Damascus area. We do so for the reasons set forth in our March 27, 2013 letter to the Clackamas County Commissioners asking that they support passage of SB 708.

- We have nowhere to turn to except the legislature for help.

- Senate Bill 708 provides a reasoned solution to allowing development on GDI's land. We are willing to work with the proponents of a legislative solution to clarify that the additional county costs for processing land use applications filed under Senate Bill 708 can be imposed so the planning work does not burden the county with additional costs.

- Providing a legislative solution now will allow the economic development to move forward without further delay on our shovel ready project and allow the creation of additional jobs to occur without further delay. The economic benefit (outlined in the attached March 11 letter) flowing from our third generation family business is significant—roughly 342 direct and indirect jobs and growing—and there will be additional construction industry jobs that will result from the building of the necessary improvements for a new 120,000 square foot center of operations for our business. In addition, the property tax revenues will benefit from the addition of these improvements providing enhanced revenue for local governments to provide governmental services. These tax revenues are genuinely needed by local governments.

- Building a vibrant quality business community requires cooperation, proactive solutions, governmental cooperation and timely decision making. We hope this Committee will join in a solution-oriented effort to provide a end to the land use planning “road block” on our land so Metro’s goal for these lands can move forward without further delay.