

**LAURIE MONNES ANDERSON**

State Senator



**STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 25**

Support of SB 19

Testimony for the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development

February 14, 2013

My name is Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, and I represent Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, and Wood Village. Economic development is vital to my area and we have a great team that is working on bringing new businesses to our area. Right now we are at a disadvantage with the west side of the tri-county area. SB 19 will make our Strategic Investment Program, SIP, much fairer and allow lands within an urban area and inside a UGB to be on equal footing. As the program stands now, lands within an urban growth boundary, but added after 2002 are defined as rural for SIP purposes. This places an unfair advantage to urban lands added after 2002 compared to lands added to the UGB before 2002. We in Gresham and east county are at an extreme disadvantage when we are wooing new industry to our area when it comes to the SIP program. We have shovel ready land and we have two semiconductor industries, Microchip and ON Semiconductor. We cannot compete on a level playing field when our land that was added before 2002 and lands on the west side were added after 2002. Within those 10 years there has been tremendous growth on the west side. We need some help on the east side. When a jurisdiction can offer incentives of a cap on assessed value at \$25 million and we can only offer an incentive of a cap on assessed value of \$100 million. We cannot compete.

The SIP should be helping truly rural areas where we really need economic development. We need to level the playing field for those of us that have land within the urban growth boundary.

Thank you very much and I hope that you will look favorably on SB 19.

