



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: May 13, 2013
TO: Joint Sub-Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
RE: HB 253 A, relating to development of large industrial sites

Co-Chair Jenson, Co-Chair Johnson, and members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has reviewed SB 253A and is in support of this measure. We ask that you recommend this measure “DO PASS” to the full Ways and Means Committee.

The bill establishes a grant program designed to increase the readiness of sites that may be developed for industrial purposes.

Economic development activities are a priority for Lane County, and the Board adopted a specific economic development goal in its Strategic Plan for 2012-17. That goal reads:

By 2017, Lane County will transform the existing industrial land in Goshen to support increased levels of development resulting in jobs that pay no less than 150% of the median wage.

With the passage of SB 766 in 2011, Lane County undertook an effort to have the state’s Economic Recovery Review Council certify Goshen as one of the state’s first regionally significant industrial areas. Within the next month, Lane County will finalize the work necessary to gain an exception to Oregon’s Land Use Goal 14, with a designation that allows Goshen zoning to be urban industrial rather than rural industrial.

Goshen is immediately south of Eugene, adjacent to I-5 and Hwy 58 and is served by rail. The parcels available for industrial development are large and mostly under individual ownership.

In spite of all these benefits, Lane County’s challenge in developing this area is that we are encumbered by our limited planning resources. Thus, getting this area to a critical shovel ready state is going to take time. SB 253A will allow us to compete for state funds that will be used to improve that timeline, and to take advantage of the economic recovery that exists for Oregon.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY