



March 7, 2013

Rep. Tobias Read, Chair
Rep. Cliff Bentz, Vice-Chair
Rep. Chris Gorsek, Vice-Chair
Oregon House Transportation and Economic Development Committee
Delivered electronically
c/o troy.rayburn@state.or.us

Regarding: March 8, 2013 hearing on HB 2284 and HB 2285

Dear Committee Members:

The Partnership for Economic Development in Douglas County is a non-profit, public-private partnership devoted to expanding opportunities for family wage employment in Douglas County. Our members include the County, Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Roseburg, Mercy Medical Center, and many others.

Douglas County, like other rural counties in Oregon, has been working diligently to diversify the local employment base for decades. There are several large industrial sites in the County (50+ acres) with excellent highway access, that would be attractive for private industrial development. However, finding adequate funds to bring these sites to a truly development-ready state is a challenge. The HB 2285 and HB 2284 would provide an important and sorely needed tool to assist private property owners in their efforts to bring these properties to market and expand the traded-sector employment base of Douglas County and the State of Oregon.

The residents of Douglas County sincerely wish to create a positive climate for private investment, which will expand employment opportunities for local residents. This is critical to the health of our community and, ultimately, the health of the state economy. As long as the economic well-being of rural and urban areas of the State continues to diverge, it will place additional pressure on the State budget and exacerbate the challenges of governing. Douglas County, in the face of extreme fiscal pressure due to declining timber receipts is continuing to make strategic investments in economic development. I respectfully urge the members of the Committee to also take the needed steps to support economic development around the State.

Sincerely,

Alex Campbell
Executive Director

Founding Partners: Douglas County Industrial Development Board, City of Roseburg, CCD Business Development, Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce ♦ *Sustaining Sponsors:* Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Mercy Medical Center ♦

Vision Sponsors: Avista Utilities, Pacific Power, Umpqua Community College

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