



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: March 7, 2013
TO: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
RE: SB 241, relating to commercialization of university-based research

Chair Beyer and members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is in support of SB 241. Commissioner Faye Stewart has been a member of the South Valley Regional Solutions Center Advisory Committee since the center was implemented by Governor Kitzhaber. The Center has been invaluable in focusing the region's priorities with respect to economic development and infrastructure development as well as providing an efficient way for local government to interact with state agencies.

SB 241 would put into motion an idea that is a natural fit for the Eugene –Springfield metropolitan area and the entirety of Lane County. A Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN) would complement the existing relationships between the University of Oregon and local economic development agencies. Indeed, our challenge will be to continue to develop industrial lands such that when the resources established through passage of SB 241 turn university research into demonstrable and market ready results, these nascent companies will have local options to examine as they contemplate entering the marketplace in full production mode.

It is our understanding that the University of Oregon and PeaceHealth are in discussions about utilizing a portion of the former Sacred Heart Hospital for the location of RAIN. This would repurpose an existing building, and the proximity to the University is excellent.

Lane County urges the Committee to strongly support SB 241.