

Testimony

City of Wilsonville

HB 2284 and HB 2285 – Industrial Site Readiness Bills

Chairman Reid and members of the House Transportation Committee:

The City of Wilsonville supports House Bills 2284 and HB 2285 and the companion Senate Bills SB 253 and SB 246 that address long-standing property-aggregation and infrastructure-financing issues that have kept the City of Wilsonville from bringing existing UGB lands planned and zoned by Metro as Regionally Significant Industrial Areas in the Coffee Creek area to development.

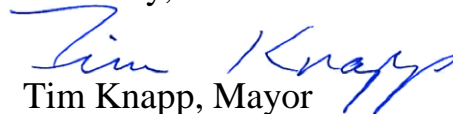
The ‘due diligence grants’ in HB 2285 and SB 253 will help the State and local governments better understand the constraints facing the development of these Industrial Lands. This will have the effect of reducing risk about site preparation costs and will help inventory the work necessary to bring these job-producing lands into the Industrial Land market.

Of great value to local governments, including the City of Wilsonville, are the forgivable loan provisions of SB 246 and House Bill 2284, which help pay the expensive front-end costs of aggregation and infrastructure development that are currently a major impediment to lands currently planned and zoned for Industrial development. An important aspect of this is having the funds on the front-end of the development process to aggregate parcelized lots into larger lots to meet the market demands of industrial users, coupled with the provision of key infrastructure.

Together, these two bills, and their Senate companion bills, provide a much-needed set of new tools to bring these Industrial Lands to market, produce the family-wage jobs, and generate new tax revenues for local and state governments, including schools and other key public services.

The City of Wilsonville urges a DO-PASS vote by the House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development on HB 2284 and HB 2285.

Sincerely,



Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville