



410 S.E. Spruce Street
P.O. Box 1026
Roseburg, OR 97470
Phone 541.672.2648
Fax 541.673.7868
www.RoseburgAreaChamber.org

February 14, 2013

VIA Hand Delivery

The Honorable Lee Beyer, Chair
Committee on Business, Transportation & Economic Development
Oregon State Senate

The Honorable Brian Clem, Chair
Committee on Land Use
Oregon House of Representatives

Re: SB 246 and SB 253/HB 2284 and HB 2285

Dear Senator Beyer, Representative Clem and Committee Members:

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce represents 600 Douglas County businesses and organizations employing nearly 17,000 residents. The chamber is also a founding member of The Partnership for Economic Development in Douglas County, a private-public partnership committed to creating family-wage employment opportunities in our county. The chamber supports Senate Bills 246 and 253 and House Bills 2284 and 2285.

Douglas County, like most rural Oregon communities, has worked diligently to diversify its local employment based for more than two decades. Our county has several significant industrial sites (50+ acres) which possess highway and/or rail access that would be appealing to private industrial development. However, acquiring sufficient funding to bring these sites to a truly development-ready status is challenging. These proposed bills would provide a vitally important tool to assist private property owners' efforts to bring these industrial sites to market and expand traded-sector employment for Douglas County and the State of Oregon.

If the economic well-being of Oregon's rural and urban communities continues to diverge, it will only place added demands on our state budget. Douglas County, in the face of fiscal challenges due to declining timber receipts, continues to make strategic investment in economic development. Our Douglas County business community sincerely desires to create a climate for private-sector investment in order to expand employment opportunities for our citizens. We recognize it is crucial to the economic health of our county and the economic growth and strength of our entire state.

We respectfully urge committee members support economic development in Oregon by supporting these bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl
President & CEO

**VISION
MISSION**

To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economic development, community promotion and member programs and services.

cc: The Honorable Jeff Kruse
The Honorable Floyd Prozanski
The Honorable Tim Freeman
The Honorable Bruce Hanna
The Honorable Wayne Krieger