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MEASURE 2 SB 1510
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February 4, 2014

The Honorable Michael Dembrow
Oregon State Senate
Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE S-407
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SB 1510

Dear Chair Dembrow:

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I am sure you will find it very interesting, rich in opportunity, and with no shortage of issues.

AOI, as well as several other business groups, have reviewed SB 1510, *Relating to projects of statewide significance*, and have serious concerns regarding the bill.

Oregon has a sophisticated and comprehensive regulatory system overlaid on an extensive land use system. Any large project is subject to rigorous permitting requirements, public review and comment and, unfortunately, increasing uncertainty as to its final disposition. SB 1510 would inject significant additional hurdles as well as an immense amount of new uncertainty for anyone contemplating a significant project by raising the specters of unpredictable delays and costs.

In addition, the bill runs counter to recent non-partisan efforts to streamline and simplify the state's regulatory system. A report on the effort, [Governor's Regulatory Streamlining and Simplification Project](#), was submitted to the Governor in August of last year. On page 1 (Regulatory Challenges and Recommendations) of the report it notes that:

"Oregon's current regulatory model enables sluggish [regulatory] processes to persist.... This harms Oregon business climate, burden job growth, diminishes our natural environment, reduces Oregon's quality of life, and fails to fulfill Oregon's potential."