

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 18, 2014

RE: Support for House Bill 4015



Dear Co-Chairs Johnson and Jenson and Committee Members:

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Please accept this testimony in support of House Bill 4015A and the Governor's Regional Solutions Program. The City of Bend has been involved with the Central Oregon Regional Solutions Team (CORST) in setting economic development priorities for our region. The program has brought together community leaders and state agency representatives in a productive manner to identify specific projects that will benefit the various central Oregon communities.

The projects identified as priorities within central Oregon were chosen based on the ability of these projects to enhance economic development opportunities throughout the region. The following thoroughly-vetted priorities were established by the CORST:

JIM CLINTON
Mayor

JODIE BARRAM
Mayor Pro Tem

MARK CAPELL
City Councilor

VICTOR CHUDOWSKY
City Councilor

- Establishment of four year university (OSU Cascades)
- Job retention/growth
- Ensure that the region has land and infrastructure to retain/attract employers
- Sewer Infrastructure
- Central Oregon Transit System
- Regional Agriculture

DOUG KNIGHT
City Councilor

The specific projects chosen to support those priorities spread investment and focus throughout central Oregon. The appropriate state agencies have been "assigned" to specific projects to provide necessary assistance and expertise to move projects forward.

SCOTT RAMSAY
City Councilor

SALLY RUSSELL
City Councilor

The Regional Solutions project fosters productive working relationships between local communities and the state agencies that serve them by creating appropriate teams for each project. The City of Bend is supportive of HB 4015A and efforts to connect state funding to the priorities and projects identified by local interests to meet greater regional needs.

ERIC KING
City Manager

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric King", is written over a horizontal line.

Eric King, City Manager