



Feb. 12, 2015

Honorable Caddy McKeown, Chair
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: House Bill 2289 tax credit cleanup of brownfield property

Dear Chair McKeown and Members of the Transportation and Economic Development Committee:

Addressing brownfields is an important part of the future of economic development in Oregon, and specifically for the City of Beaverton. House Bill 2289 is an important tool that will encourage the rehabilitation of properties in Beaverton.

Beaverton currently has 25 brownfield sites encompassing 179.7 acres and more than 102 businesses employing 2,600 people located on these sites. Brownfields limit the capacity of the current land and business owners to expand their business and improve their property, since the initial environmental studies can be cost prohibitive. The tax credit makes redeveloping a brownfield site an attractive option for a potential business or property owner to take the next step in addressing these land constraints.

The City of Beaverton is eager to bring more development to Oregon and has leveraged many of the available tools such as the Enterprise Zone, Urban Renewal District, Vertical Housing Tax Exemption programs, but even these valuable tools do not address our brownfields needs.

I urge the committee to pass this important legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alma Flores". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "F".

Alma Flores

Economic Development Manager