



CITY OF ESTACADA

"Close to everything, but away from it all"

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Presented to:

Chair Senator Beyer, Members of the Committee on Business and Transportation

Presented by:

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I support Senate Bill 32.

Estacada, Oregon is located next to Mt Hood National Forest and has a population just shy of 3,000. 7 years ago, Estacada's lumber mill closed. Since 2008 the City's annual median household income declined by 12%.

Recognizing that quality of life has been declining, Estacada's leadership has made economic development its highest priority. However, not having natural gas service thwarts our targeted business recruitment efforts and prevents Estacada's existing businesses from expanding their operations.

Over the past five years Estacada expanded its Urban Growth Boundary, expanded its City limits, and worked with state agencies and private property owners to certify 107 acres of industrial land through Business Oregon's Industrial Site Certification Program. This land has a 180-day construction-ready guarantee and is considered by Clackamas County to be a Strategically Significant Employment Land. Estacada has an additional 41 acres that is not certified, yet is available for industrial development. **We are now poised to grow.** It is projected that Estacada's industrial land could yield 846 direct on-going jobs. **That would be a 70% increase in employment for the community.**

How does not having natural gas service inhibit job creation? Estacada's industrial land is certified for food processing and general manufacturing, but many industrial processes require natural gas (e.g. powder coating metal products); therefore, not having natural gas service rules out leads that would otherwise be a good fit for Estacada's workforce and infrastructure.

The cost of connecting to the closest main line is estimated at approximately \$13 Million Dollars. Forming a Public Utility Commission work group to study methods for expanding service to stranded communities is the first step toward serving Estacada and similar Cities, and thus a strong step toward job creation for rural communities across the state. Estacada is committed to developing jobs, which will increase residents' abilities to support their families, but we need your assistance with this effort by supporting Senate Bill 32.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.