



CITY OF REDMOND
Redmond City Council

716 SW Evergreen Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

www.ci.redmond.or.us

February 15, 2015

Representative Brian Clem
Chair, House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
900 Court St. NE, H-284
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

The City of Redmond, a Central Oregon community of approximately 27,000 people, extends our support for House Bill 2435. This bill provides a mechanism, an administrative structure and funding for rural infrastructure projects.

Redmond has more than 1,400 acres of industrially zoned land in the eastern part of our city. Like many cities across Oregon, we are seeking resources to help serve such land with necessary infrastructure, which is the key to unlocking its potential for job creation, private investment and tax generation. Specifically, the Redmond City Council and staff have been working diligently to identify resources for a \$16,000,000 sewer infrastructure investment.. While we can absorb some of those costs locally, the State and the IFA is a partner we are dependent upon to achieve the entire project.

HB 2435 is a very important tool. Redmond would use the program to leverage economic development projects in a manner that would provide a positive example to other areas across the State. We seek two modifications to make the IFA more accessible:

- We encourage the Committee to increase the loan limit from \$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000. The costs for our projects, even with an investment from the City, leave a gap larger than \$2,500,000.
- If we build it, they will come – eventually...but not usually in a timeframe that aligns with the current IFA program. Quite simply, we need to have the loan eligibility and the forgivable component not be so immediately tied to having “a bird in the hand.” Therefore, we ask the IFA forgivable loan program to have terms which allow the job creation requirements to be fulfilled for up to eight years after the loan is issued.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity for input on this Bill. We encourage the House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water to support HB 2435 with a “due pass” recommendation.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Endicott". The signature is written in black ink and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

George Endicott
Mayor
Redmond, Oregon