

February 17, 2015

**AOC SUPPORTS**  
**OREGON INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**  
**HB 2435**

As Oregon moves out of the recession, many rural communities are still struggling to recover. We cannot be successful as a State unless all areas of Oregon are thriving. The proposed Oregon Infrastructure Opportunity Program recognizes the unique needs and challenges of rural Oregon. For this reason, the Association of Oregon Counties voted unanimously on February 9, 2015, to support HB 2435.

Historically, rural Oregon has relied on natural resource industries such as farming, fishing, logging and ranching as its economic driver. These industries have expanded to include outdoor recreation and renewable energy production. The Infrastructure Opportunity Program recognizes the multitude of possibilities for job creation in rural Oregon by providing loans, including forgivable loans, that would otherwise not be available.

AOC applauds Business Oregon Director Sean Robbins and the Oregon Business Council for listening to the voices of rural Oregonians as they travelled around the state last year. This program is in direct response to the suggestions of community and business leaders. By providing enhanced access to capital for rural infrastructure projects which will be leveraged by private and other public investments, this program will encourage quality job growth in the areas of our state that most desperately need it.

AOC stands ready to work with Business Oregon in making the Oregon Infrastructure Opportunity Program a success. AOC encourages your support of HB 2435. In doing so, you support the economic stabilization and recovery of rural Oregon.

Please contact Mary Stern at [mstern@ocweb.org](mailto:mstern@ocweb.org) for more information about AOC or this issue.