



March 18, 2015

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

RE: Business Oregon Budget Hearing Support

Co-Chair Senator Johnson and Co-Chair Representative Gomberg, and members of the Committee: My name is Gary Neal, I am the General Manager of the Port of Morrow, located in Morrow County in Eastern Oregon, more specifically Boardman. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you in support of Business Oregon's proposed Budget.

There are more than 4,000 people working at the Port of Morrow in facilities such as Data Centers, Multiple food Processing operations, and energy and alternative energy Production Industries, as well as other Industries in Transportation and logistics services. We also anticipate a steady growth as we look forward. Due to our success at attracting New Business and creating New Jobs, we are one of the fastest growing Industrial areas in the State and we enjoy one of the highest per-capita incomes in the State.

Our ability to provide Infrastructure for Economic Growth-in water, wastewater Treatment, Roads, Rail and Marine Facilities- is one of the primary reasons we have been successful in attracting economic growth to our region.

Business Oregon's Special Public Works Fund has played a key role in our ability to provide the infrastructure for our customer's needs and is an important tool for community and economic development throughout the region. The proposal to include \$7 million for patient capital in the Special Public Works Fund should be particularly helpful to our region as it is our experience that Industrial Customers are generally unwilling to consider locating at Industrial Sites that aren't served with needed Infrastructure. Many areas have a desire to attract Industry, but do not have the Infrastructure readily available for the Customer.

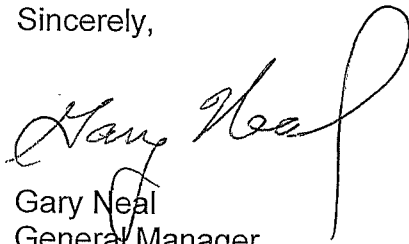
The addition of the Oregon Infrastructure Opportunity Program, which provides \$10 million for last mile infrastructure needed to support immediate Economic Development opportunities in rural communities, will also be a valuable tool for attracting business to the Port of Morrow and other regional Industrial Sites.

I would also like to express support for the Regional Infrastructure Fund which will support Key Economic and Community Development priorities recommended by the Regional Solutions Advisory committees around the State. If approved, this fund will support two of our Region's Highest Priorities creating hundreds of new jobs for Eastern Oregon.

From Direct Business Development assistance to participating in Regional Solutions and other collaborative Economic Development efforts, Business Oregon is an important partner for the Port of Morrow and we look forward to continuing to work with the Department to bring Economic Opportunity to Morrow County, the Region and the State. For these reasons, and the reasons I previously mentioned, I strongly support Business Oregon's proposed Budget.

Co-Chairs Johnson and Gomberg and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to talk with you this afternoon and I am happy to answer any question you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Neal". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Gary Neal
General Manager
Port of Morrow



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 12, 2015

Dear Shipping Industry Professional:

Florida is on a mission to be the number one destination in the world for jobs. Over the last four years, Florida's private-sector businesses have created over 728,000 jobs, we have cut taxes over forty times, and we've eliminated over 3,200 regulations. In order to continue our incredible growth and move Florida's economy into the future, we have made strategic investments in our seaports and transportation infrastructure. Florida has already provided over \$850 million in state funding directly to seaports over the last four years, and we will keep funding our ports throughout the next four years.

According to media reports, a nine-month long labor dispute that ended in late February involving ports along the west coast of the United States has caused major delays and uncertainties in unloading ships and delivering goods which could affect normal operations for up to six months. These delays have presented challenges to many shippers whose businesses rely on the ability to efficiently move goods across the nation and many have indicated that they plan to divert cargo from the west coast. Florida ports are undoubtedly a solution to this problem.

Our investment in port infrastructure means Florida's ports are ready and have the capacity to immediately handle increased cargo that could come to Florida as a result of port congestion on the other side of the country. Florida's ports handle over 3.1 million 20-foot equivalent units of containerized cargo annually and have existing capacity to handle much more. In addition, numerous projects are underway to significantly increase container handling capabilities at many of our Florida ports. This year, we made record investments in our transportation system and are proposing to invest \$9.9 billion in transportation funding this year. Florida has the infrastructure to move your goods across the nation once they reach our ports.

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Florida's low-tax, business friendly climate and our commitment to investing in our transportation infrastructure are great reasons for you to consider shipping your goods through Florida ports. In comparison, under Governor Jerry Brown's tax and spend administration, California has the nation's highest personal income tax, highest state sales tax, second highest gas tax, and has more than double the state debt per capita than Florida. And for ten straight years, CEOs have ranked California dead last for its business climate. Florida has no personal income tax, we've paid down \$7.5 billion in state debt in the last four years, and we are ranked second in the same index for business climate. Now is a great time to give Florida and our ports an opportunity to improve the efficiency, resiliency and reliability of your supply chain. We've made job creation a priority while Governor Brown idly watches businesses flee California, which has the second highest unemployment rate of any state, only behind Mississippi.

On April 12-13, I will be leading a trade delegation to California to meet with companies to explain how Florida ports and our transportation infrastructure can help their business. I'm inviting you to attend a reception we will hold on Sunday, April 12, in Los Angeles. Please contact Bill Johnson, President and CEO of Enterprise Florida, at (850) 298-6653. Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
Governor