



Feb. 6, 2015

Honorable Mark Hass, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: Senate Bill 64 clarifying that Metro's charter is the source of authority for issuing revenue bonds to be paid by visitor taxes

Dear Chair Hass and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today to support the swift passage of Senate Bill 64. This bill will keep the job-creating Oregon Convention Center Hotel project on track and clear away any doubt that it can finally move to completion.

The Hotel is a benefit to not only the Portland area, but to the region as a whole. Beaverton supports this project because we know that our citizens will benefit from jobs created at the hotel, the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) and in business in our community that will provide services in the tourism industry. In addition, when large conventions come to the OCC, visitors spend time and money visiting Washington County and our community directly benefits from those expenditures as well. There are two major areas of value:

Value of Tourism in Oregon

- Tourism is a \$9.6 billion per year industry in Oregon, employing 93,000 people
- Tourism jobs make up a larger share of employment in Oregon's rural counties (roughly three percent of jobs in urban areas and six percent in rural areas)
- Revenue generated from tourism jobs allows the state to invest in other important services, like education and public safety

The Convention Center Hotel Project

- In 2014, the economic impact of the OCC totaled \$516.6 million and supported 5,000 full- and part-time jobs
- The Convention Center Hotel will attract between five and 10 new, large conventions each year
- Convention-goers, on average, spend \$330 per day in hotels, restaurants, and shopping

- The project will support 2,000 construction jobs and more than 900 permanent hospitality and induced jobs
- The project is critical for Oregon's ability to attract other major events, like the NBA All-star Game or the NCAA Final Four

Each month the hotel project completion is delayed we lose additional convention groups and the spending these groups would bring to Oregon. Senate Bill 64 simply clarifies that Metro's charter is the source of authority for issuing revenue bonds to be repaid by visitor taxes.

I urge to support the prompt passage of Senate Bill 64 and make the most of Oregon's investment in our tourism industry. Thank you for your leadership and support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denny Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Denny Doyle
Mayor