

The City of Pendleton supports the removal of paragraph (c) from Senate Bill 671. (“The L-shaped building located on the former Eastern Oregon Training Center site at 2575 Westgate, Suite 1 in Pendleton”). This bill is the final phase of a plan presented to the E-Board in 2014, to demolish the former Blue Mountain Recovery Center and certain buildings on the former Eastern Oregon Training Center (EOTC) campus and to convey the property to the City of Pendleton. The property will be used for job creation related to the designation of Pendleton as one of the three Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAV) test sites in Oregon, and to respond to the unmet need for additional industrial, workforce, and student housing.

With the loss of the 60-bed BMRC facility, which was partially offset by the creation of three 5-bed mental health facilities on a portion of the former EOTC campus, the City has been working with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) and other partners to replace needed mental health services creating employment for as many as 20 mental health individuals. The City of Pendleton was of the belief that the “L” shaped building would not be in use by the state, and therefore requested that it be deeded to the City for this purpose. Pendleton has since come to the understanding that the Oregon Health Authority is using a portion of the “L” building. Pendleton has been in communication with OHA and is agreeable to withdraw its request to transfer the building and to work collaboratively with OHA and possibly other partners to fully utilize this building to provide needed mental health services.

I wish to thank Senator Hansell for his sponsorship of this bill, the other Senators and Representatives listed for their support and the Rules Committee for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Chuck Wood
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