



March 10, 2015

CITY OF PENDLETON

Office of the Mayor
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Senator Diane Rosenbaum,
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
900 Court Street NE, S-223
Salem OR, 97301

Re: Senate Bill 671 (Blue Mountain Recovery Center Strategy Land Conveyance Bill)

Dear Senator Rosenbaum,

I am writing to express the City of Pendleton's strong support for Senate Bill 671.

HB 5201 passed at the end of the 2014 legislative session requested the City of Pendleton develop a strategy to mitigate the economic impact to the community of Pendleton caused by closure of the Blue Mountain Recovery Center (BMRC) and further stated that the strategy should include how the state could make investments in support of the strategy.

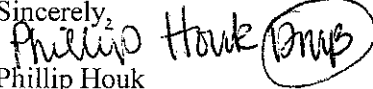
As requested in HB5201 the City of Pendleton through Regional Solutions worked with local, state, and federal partners to develop a strategy to replace jobs lost by the closure of the BMRC. The strategy focusses on developing Pendleton's unmanned aerial vehicle test range, demolishing the former BMRC and conveying the land to the city to be marketed for industrial use, demolishing buildings at the former Eastern Oregon Training Center and conveying the land to the city to be marketed for workforce and Blue Mountain Community College student housing, and conveying one usable building at the former EOTC campus to be marketed for mental health and addiction treatment related services. We believe this strategy will create up to 400 new jobs in Pendleton and provide much needed housing for a growing workforce and students attending Blue Mountain Community College.

The strategy was presented to and accepted by the Emergency Board in September 2014. I was invited to testify before the Emergency Board again in December 2014, I where I requested \$1,035,000 in funding for building demolition as identified in the strategy. The funding was awarded and demolition is anticipated to begin this spring.

SB 671 is the next phase in the implementation of the strategy to replace jobs lost in Pendleton as a result of the closure of the BMRC. The conveyance of this land and one reusable building, along with other state and local investments as identified in the strategy, positions Pendleton to replace jobs lost by the closure of the BMRC and sets the stage for additional economic and community development opportunities.

On behalf of the City of Pendleton and the partners that developed the economic development strategy requested under HB 5201, I urge and thank you for your support of SB 671.

Sincerely,


Phillip Houk
Mayor, City of Pendleton



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