



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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April 6, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

I write in opposition to SB 716, which undermines the regional land use process and does not address the primary obstacles to development of industrial lands.

The integrity of the system is weakened by allowing individual parcels to be designated by counties outside of the regional process. The greater Portland metro region has over 12,000 acres of buildable industrial and commercial lands waiting for development or redevelopment. Adding greenfield sites at the edge of the region merely adds to our growing list of unfunded infrastructure needs.

Instead, we need the State of Oregon to focus on infrastructure financing. Industrial development, by its nature, tends to be lower value buildings. Eighty percent of the public revenue generated from industrial development is in the form of income taxes that go to the State of Oregon. Rather than increase undeveloped and unserviced land to a surplus inventory of buildable industrial lands in the Metro region, the Oregon Legislature should fund financial assistance programs created in the 2013 session (SB 246 and SB 253) to help get our existing industrial land base ready for development.

Sincerely,

Susan Anderson
Director

