

April 6, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards  
Chair, Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources  
Members of Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

It is critical to have an adequate supply of usable, large-scale industrial lands to support traded-sector job growth, which SB 716 helps support.

A comprehensive inventory and analysis conducted by the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon), Metro, the Portland Business Alliance and Port of Portland, found not only a shortage large-scale industrial sites in the Portland-Metro region, but many of the sites that were available faced serious constraints to their development. In addition, in a series of economic development forums around the state, hosted by Business Oregon and the Oregon Business Plan, the need for industrial land availability was identified by most regions as critical to their efforts to attract and retain jobs. As a result, the region and state are at a competitive disadvantage when looking to attract large, traded-sector investment opportunities.

Attracting and growing traded-sector businesses are important to Oregon's economic well-being. These firms not only bring and attract new investment to our state, but the jobs created and retained typically pay higher wages and provide better benefits in comparison to other, non-traded sector employment.

The Oregon Business Plan includes the need to have useable, large-scale industrial sites to support traded-sector development. Moreover, the Legislature's continued attention to industrial lands underscores the issue's importance. Moving forward, we must continue to partner and have the appropriate tools and resources to identify and develop sites that allow Oregon to better market itself to capitalize on investment opportunities. SB 716 provides a tool that helps address this issue.

We appreciate the Committee's attention to this important issue to support the state's economy.

