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HB 2508

April 14, 2015

To: Representative Brian Clem and members of the House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water

The Great Hermiston Chamber of Commerce SUPPORTS HB 2508.

The Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce represents over 450 businesses and organizations in our region those businesses employ over 13,500 people throughout our region.

- Many of our local businesses rely on agriculture and are directly connected to the industry. We are aware that our high-value agricultural lands seen to be of critical economic importance to the Hermiston area.
- There will be a loss of irrigated land base that will directly and indirectly impact of our Chamber members and employees in the irrigated agriculture and dairy industry.
- We encourage those working on behalf of our local farmers and agriculture producers work with you, together in a collaborative effort, so that solutions that will be beneficial to our state and local economy can find a way to protect our land base and private land and business owners.
- There are proposals that locate the transmission lines and substations to avoid our high valued operations that provide jobs in Northeast Oregon. Transparency of the costs and benefits of alternative locations and balancing of the relative costs of alternative sites between the energy industry and the agricultural industry should be considered. HB 2508 can ensure that this may happen.

Sincerely,

Joe Franell  
Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board