



RUSSELL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, INC.

April 20, 2015

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senate Committee on Workforce  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce:

I write to you today in opposition to SB 814, a bill intended to take authority away from cities and counties to go beyond state regulations in the area of employment benefits.

I am proud of the State I have called home since 1960 and have been fortunate to serve the State of Oregon and Portland in a number of public roles over the years. I moved to Portland without a job with the belief that Portland was a place where people could control their own destiny and could make a difference. Over the years, I have seen both political and business leaders work to make Portland a great place to do business in Oregon.

Among other things, I understand that this bill could negatively affect Portland's civil rights laws, to which I strongly object. The bill seems to fly in the face of progress. There are many times when the City of Portland stepped forward to ensure employment protections when the State did not or could not act. Furthermore, it's certainly true that Portland, Eugene, Vail, Burns and all the Oregon cities deserve the right to set their own policies.

Sincerely,

John W. Russell  
President