



June 1, 2015

The Honorable Mark Hass, Chair
Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee

RE: HB 2652

Dear Chairman Hass and Committee Members:

I write in support of HB 2652, which would correct the definition of urban and rural for purposes of Oregon's Strategic Investment Plan, and would make a small adjustment to the relevant population threshold. As an economic development professional working to attract jobs and investment to the McMinnville area, this legislation has the potential of making a big impact on our community, and other rural communities in Oregon.

Currently, though clearly a medium-sized rural community, McMinnville is not able to access the rural SIP. This legislation would make the tool available, providing a new incentive option. In addition, it would ensure that the rural incentive is appropriately available only for rural communities, restoring the value of the tool to communities across the state.

I urge the Committee to support this legislation. It is a small correction to the statute that could have a big impact across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jody Christensen'.

Jody Christensen, Executive Director
MEDP-McMinnville Economic Development Partnership