

From the desk of Representative  
**LEW FREDERICK**



## Vote YES on SB 927

### Removes barrier to construction of job-creating Oregon Convention Center headquarters hotel

When the Oregon Convention Center hosts national conventions, it benefits not only the Portland region, but the entire state of Oregon. Conventioneers spend money on hotels and restaurants and often add leisure travel to the Oregon Coast, the Columbia River Gorge, Mt. Hood, Willamette Valley wineries, and destinations in Central, Eastern and Southern Oregon to their itineraries. Local businesses generate economic activity, and state and local governments reap increased lodging and income taxes.

Oregon is an attractive destination for convention attendees, but we can attract even more conventions – and the related jobs, spending, and revenue – by locating a headquarters hotel next to the Oregon Convention Center. This is because the people who decide where to hold conventions consider an adjacent headquarters hotel to be essential to the effective conduct of a large convention. The lack of such a hotel is costing Oregon jobs, economic activity and tax revenue every month.

After years of preparation, it is possible that ground can be broken this year on a convention center hotel, thanks in part to \$10 million in lottery bonds provided by the 2013 Legislature. But the project has been delayed by baseless lawsuits questioning Metro's authority to support the project with revenue bonds backed by the lodging taxes paid by guests of the hotel. While these lawsuits have been summarily dismissed, appeals are leading to continued delay, which increases costs and threatens the project's viability.

Senate Bill 927 simply clarifies the Legislature's previously expressed intent that Metro's voter-approved home-rule charter is the source of Metro's revenue bond financing authority. This clarifying language would allow the job-creating convention center hotel project to finally move to completion.

Please vote YES on SB 927.

