



March 20, 2017

To the Honorable House Economic Development and Trade Committee Members

RE: HB 2012

Good morning, I am Kit Kamo from the Snake River Economic Development Alliance (SREDA) and I'm grateful for this opportunity to speak to you on the positive impacts that House Bill 2012 will have for Oregon and Malheur County. HB 2012 has the unique potential to lift Malheur County up to meet the business opportunities that are now knocking at our door.

Our organization covers 3 counties in 2 states – Malheur County in Oregon and 2 counties in Idaho. Our primary focus is to market the region encouraging new business investments and more living wage jobs. It is extremely important that the existing businesses in Malheur County are financially healthy and stable. A company will not generally consider an expansion in a community with a poor economy. Likewise, a new company looking to relocate or expand its geographic location, will not consider a community with struggling businesses.

HB 2012 allows Oregon to creatively address our economically repressed county that is part of the Idaho commerce and trade area in the Western Treasure Valley. Without HB2012, Malheur County is unable to compete in their own area. Infrastructure, workforce development, industrial land capacity, and other key components are needed to enhance and grow the economic stability of this county. Thereby making Oregon's economy stronger.

Our organization fully supports HB 2012. Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. And for all you do for small business and rural communities in the State of Oregon!

Sincerely,

Kit Kamo

Kit Kamo, Executive Director
Snake River Economic Development Alliance