



**Oregon State University**  
**Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center**  
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March 27, 2017

Representative Ann Lininger, Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development and Trade  
Oregon State Capital  
900 Court Street NE, Room 453, Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support of HB 2743 – A bill directing the Land Conservation and Development Commission to establish and implement pilot program to implement master plan for economic development on land adjacent to airport in rural area

Dear Chair Lininger, Vice-Chair Marsh, Representatives Clem, Gomberg, Helm, Lewis, Post, and Reschke:

This letter is to express support for House Bill 2743. The Oregon State University Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center (COARC) is located on property owned by the City of Madras and is within the boundary proposed by the pilot program that would be established by House Bill 2743. COARC conducts basic and applied research that provides valuable science-based knowledge and recommendations to the local agricultural industry. Research conducted by COARC scientists helps to improve the sustainability of agriculture in central Oregon through increased fertilization efficiency, reduced water consumption, and better management of pests and diseases. Additionally, the research and Extension programs at COARC have important and immediate impacts at the statewide, regional, and national levels. It is my belief that passage of HB 2743 and the City's participation in the pilot program outlined therein will provide the multiple benefits to COARC.

This legislation would enable the City to streamline the permitting process for new development by enabling the City to perform land use decisions on City of Madras owned airport property. This change would allow COARC to work directly with the City when developing plans for future expansion on the site it currently occupies.

This legislation also provides the opportunity for more integrated airport infrastructure planning with other infrastructure system plans such as the Transportation System and Wastewater Master plans; current rules do not allow transportation and sewer improvements to be planned within the City's transportation and wastewater master plans on the airport property outside of the Urban Growth Boundary. This is important to COARC for future growth as expanded laboratory and education facilities will likely require significant sewer improvements.

In summary, this legislation is important to Oregon State University's COARC and its plans for future growth and facility improvements, which will in turn allow COARC to continue to serve the research and Extension needs of the agricultural industry in central Oregon and Oregonians statewide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Tollefson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Tollefson,  
COARC Director