



April 18, 2017

Dear Members of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

The McMinnville Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) would like to confirm our support for the Governor's Regional Solutions Teams (RST) and project funding in HB 5025 and SB 5530 especially for rural areas.

We recognize the importance of putting dollars on the ground with local authorities to allow for highest priorities to receive funding at least at minimum levels within the State by region. We have found a true benefit in the role our RST has played in bringing pivotal parties to the table to discuss and find solutions to issues impacting our own rural communities. The RST's offer deep knowledge of the network of state resources and importantly provide one stop access to those resources. This has proven critical for MEDP and our local public partners as we work together to overcome economic, regulatory and other obstacles.

The Governor's RST within McMinnville and Yamhill County has helped with such opportunities as the Yamhill County Economic Vitality Summits, Innovate Oregon initiatives in Dayton and Willamina, and connecting local businesses with state resources. In addition to acting as a one stop resource, the RST's are also effective at facilitating engagement between the public and private sector; and between local and state entities. Facilitating this engagement is vital to catalyzing and accelerating much-needed economic and community development activity across the state.

MEDP asks for your continued support of the Governor's Regional Solutions Teams and the positive, beneficial community projects they continue to address. Our sincere hope is to see these programs continue.

Sincerely,

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

Jody Christensen
MEDP Executive Director