



April 18, 2017

Ways and Means Subcommittee
on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 5025 and SB 5530, Bills Relating to Regional Solutions Budget Request for 2017-19 Biennium.

Dear Co-Chair Senator Betsy Johnson and Co-Chair Representative David Gombert, and members of the Committee:

The Port of Morrow wishes to express our support regarding the Regional Solutions Budget that is listed in the amount of \$11 million in State Lottery Bonds to fund Regional Priority Projects.

Regional Solutions relies on Regional Business, Government, and Philanthropic Leaders to identify Economic and Community Development priorities. These individuals are active in their communities, understand Regional Challenges and Opportunities, and are well positioned to identify Projects that can provide meaningful Economic Impacts. State investment in regionally identified Economic Development Priorities, tailored to meet local and Regional needs, will create Jobs across Oregon and leverage \$millions in non-state investment.

Regional Solutions has proven to be an effective way to coordinate resources and remove barriers on important economic and community development projects. I have found Regional Solutions to be a key partner for the Port of Morrow including assisting on expanding workforce housing availability, coordinating with local stakeholders on projects to increase Irrigation in the Umatilla Basin to support growth of High-Value crops and value added Food Processing, and working to identify Solutions for Groundwater Quality issues in the Basin that can be supported by Farmers, Industry, and environmental interests alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gary Neal'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name and title.

Gary Neal,
General Manager

GN/cm