



CITY OF DONALD

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April 18, 2017

Oregon State Capitol
Ways and Means Subcommittee
Transportation and Economic Development
Salem, OR

RE: Support for the Governor's Regional Solutions Team and funding of HB 5025 & SB 5530

Dear Subcommittee Members:

On behalf of the City of Donald, I would like to submit this letter of support for HB 5025 and SB 5530, which would continue the funding for the Governor's Regional Solutions Team (RST). Since 2012, the City of Donald has used RST to reach viable solutions for difficult problems. As the City Manager of a rural city it is challenging to find staff time or money to devote to working through development or infrastructure issues; but the RST Regional Representative provides us that special attention that makes it all work.

In the last few years, the City has used their RST Representative, James LaBar, to work across jurisdictions at the State and County levels. Donald currently has one of the largest development projects in the midst of construction in Marion, Yamhill and Polk counties (Donald Industrial Park) and as you can imagine there was a lot of coordination to get to this point and I believe there will be until it opens. Please understand the immense level of support that the City receives from the RST Regional Representative and to eliminate the funding source that supports this position would be devastating to our small city.

Additionally, we have learned of financial opportunities, like grants, from our Regional Representative, which provide necessary funding to support rural Oregon. Many branches of the State governments provide unique programs and the Regional Rep makes it easier to learn about them as they are needed. The one-stop meetings are also vital, supportive and necessary for government to run efficiently.

Please realize the severity of the loss of this program to the City of Donald and other rural Oregon communities and vote to support HB 5025 and SB 5530. Thank you for your attention to our needs and I am always available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Bell".

Heidi Bell, MPA
City Manager