



June 1, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
Senator Mark Hass, Chair  
Senator Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair  
900 Court Street NE, Room 354  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for HB 2745B**

I am writing today to urge you to support the bill currently before the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue, HB 2745B, which will give voters in Central Oregon a choice on whether their areas should fund a public transit system.

Central Oregon is the fastest growing region in the State. Our employment growth has been amongst the top five in the nation. Our workforce needs adequate transportation to get our citizens to and from work which drives our region's economic development success. It's well known that transit systems cannot run on fares only and require additional funding streams to grow and sustain operations.

A clarification to ORS190 offers a number of benefits to our Central Oregon Communities. It gives them local control -- each city can choose the appropriate level of service, funding amount, and tool for funding transit in their community. It maximizes efficiency, by retaining regional management for the transit system, minimizing costs and optimizing streamlined and convenient service. Some communities may choose to ask voters to support funding initiatives, and other communities may not be ready any time soon. Giving Central Oregon communities the option to seek transit funding from voters is important to our region.

REDI has been involved in business, workforce and community development in Central Oregon for over 25 years. In addition to its traded sector business recruitment efforts, REDI has provided technical support and resources to many of Redmond's existing employers that account for a large percentage of the community's family wage jobs and taxable investment.

We ask that you move HB 2745B forward, and support its passage in this session. If you have any questions regarding our position on this bill, please don't hesitate calling.

Signature,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jon Stark'.

Jon Stark  
Sr. Director  
Redmond Economic Development, Inc.