



City of Nyssa

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Dear Legislature,

RE: Senator Ferrioli has introduced SB 432

My Name is Jim Maret and I am the City Manager for the City of Nyssa and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for taking an interest in hearing our thoughts on this matter.

The City of Nyssa is a small rural agricultural community that is situated on the Oregon and Idaho border that has a bridge that takes you into Idaho. Not too long ago we were a growing community with several gas stations, car lot's, restaurant's, grocery stores, a movie theater and a population well over 5,000.

Over the past 10 years our population has shrunk to 3,230 and most of our businesses have left or are leaving. We have a lot of empty store fronts on Main Street and we are down to our last grocery store. Some of our longtime agricultural businesses have moved or are moving across to Idaho (we lost two onion packing sheds this year alone.) They have done this due to the devastation caused by this winter to their buildings and because they can pay \$7.25 per hour along with not having to comply with Oregon's Land Use regulations. The city of Nyssa believes that without SB 432, we as well as a lot of other small border towns in Oregon will become ghost towns and fade into history.

SB 432 which was introduced by Senator Ferrioli in 2017 will help all low income struggling communities like ours tremendously. We will be able to keep businesses in Oregon and help the infrastructure of our small communities. It will provide jobs, housing and opportunity for many Oregonians in need. In reviewing past legislation there have been times that the State of Oregon does not take into consideration our small rural communities when decisions are made or the ramifications of those decisions. There is no one package fits all, especially in Oregon where there are almost two different states between the metro area and rural eastern Oregon. The City of Nyssa feels that consideration has to be taken in how these important decisions affect our side of the state. We are much different than say a Mt. Angel, Oregon, which is a similar sized city located in the metro area and does not have Idaho at their back door. I want to thank you again for the opportunity to listen and now it is your time to act and help all small border town communities in Oregon.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Maret", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Jim Maret

City Manager

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