

June 26, 2017



Senator Frederick and Representative Witt, Co-Chairs  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Natural Resources

**RE: Support of HB 2743:** Directs Land Conservation and Development Commission to establish and implement master plan for economic development on land adjacent to airport in rural area

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative Witt, Senators Girod and Taylor, Representatives Esquivel, Helm, Lewis and Power,

As EDCO (Economic Development for Central Oregon) Director in Madras/Jefferson County, I urge your support of HB 2743. The City of Madras will meet the strict criteria required by this pilot program. The City solely owns the Madras Airport *and adjacent* County zoned Airport Management lands. The criteria in this bill will allow the City to expand their Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to include their entire airport *by bringing in their adjacent Airport Management zoned lands*. Although all one land mass and properly zoned Airport Management and Development, right now the City's airport is split between two jurisdictions making planning and economic development very costly and difficult.

It is important to note that **no** EFU Farmland or Rangeland is in any way crossed, affected or compromised by following the strict criteria in this pilot program. *These lands are already zoned Airport Management and Development*. In fact, our agricultural community supports HB 2743. OSU's Central Oregon Ag Research Center and North Unit Irrigation District have written letters of support as have Jefferson County, Central Oregon Cities Organization, Bend Airport and others. The bill has wide support because it is a good and necessary bill for a small, rural, distressed City and County to help prepare their airport-industrial lands for development.

With each opportunity, we now must deal with two local governments, the FAA *and then add a lengthy, expensive State UGB process on top*. HB 2743 provides the mechanism and very strict requirements to move forward and **the City of Madras has approved funding to help the Department of Land Use implement this pilot program**. Businesses do not wait for lengthy, costly government land use processes in order to develop. Nor does this bill open the door in any way to negatively affect Ag lands, as the criteria clearly states.

Under current DLCD rules, the City would have to be in continual UGB expansion process for the next 10 to 15 years. Not only is this unreasonable timewise, it is also cost prohibitive with approximately seven expansions needed to bring in their own land at a cost, in today's dollars, upwards of \$50,000 each. Not only can this small rural City not afford \$350,000 to \$400,000, it can't afford the missed opportunities for development and new jobs.

I urge you to please pass the A4 amendment and HB 2743 to the full Ways and Means Committee with a do pass recommendation. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time, thank you for all you do for our great State.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Brown".

Janet Brown  
EDCO Director for Jefferson County