



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 4, 2019

Honorable Senator Chuck Riley
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. S-303
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Riley:

RE: Senate Bill 394

The Union County Commissioners support the introduced provisions of Senate Bill 394. Blue Mountain Translator District (BMTD) has served Union County residents since 1978, and we believe that SB 394 will allow this district to offer better services in our community.

Blue Mountain Translator District has broadcast unmodified over-the-air TV signals in Union County for over forty years. The market-driven revenue system unique to BMTD requires competition in order to increase revenue, and upgrades authorized in SB 394 will allow BMTD to offer more competitive services. Key among the provisions of SB 394 is authorization for BMTD to transmit local emergency alerts on its signals and operate its own channel. Union County experiences dangers from fires, extreme weather, and other hazards, and BMTD can become a valuable asset in the mission to ensure that emergency alerts reach county residents on all available media. A local channel will provide additional advertising opportunities for Union County businesses and allow BMTD to inform its viewers of important local news and information, including the need to pay a service charge for use of its signals.

Union County Commissioners thank the Committee on Business and General Government for holding the first hearing on translator district statutes since 1997. We hope that the Committee will move Senate Bill 394 to the Senate floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Donna Beverage
Chair