



February 4, 2019

Senator Chuck Riley
900 Court St. NE, S-303
Salem, OR, 97301
Sen.ChuckRiley@oregonlegislature.gov

Bill Harvey
Commission Chair
bharvey@bakercounty.org

RE: SB 394

Dear Senator Chuck Riley:

Mark Bennett
Commissioner
mbennett@bakercounty.org

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

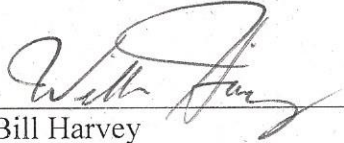
Bruce A. Nichols
Commissioner
bnichols@bakercounty.org

Blue Mountain Translator District has broadcast unmodified over-the-air TV signals in Baker 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 are authorization for BMTD to transmit local emergency alerts on its signals and operate its own channel. Baker 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 Baker 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.

Baker 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.

Best regards,



Bill Harvey
Chair, Baker County Commissioners