

SENATE BILLS 393 & 394

BLUE MOUNTAIN TRANSLATOR DISTRICT

ALEX MCHADDAD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



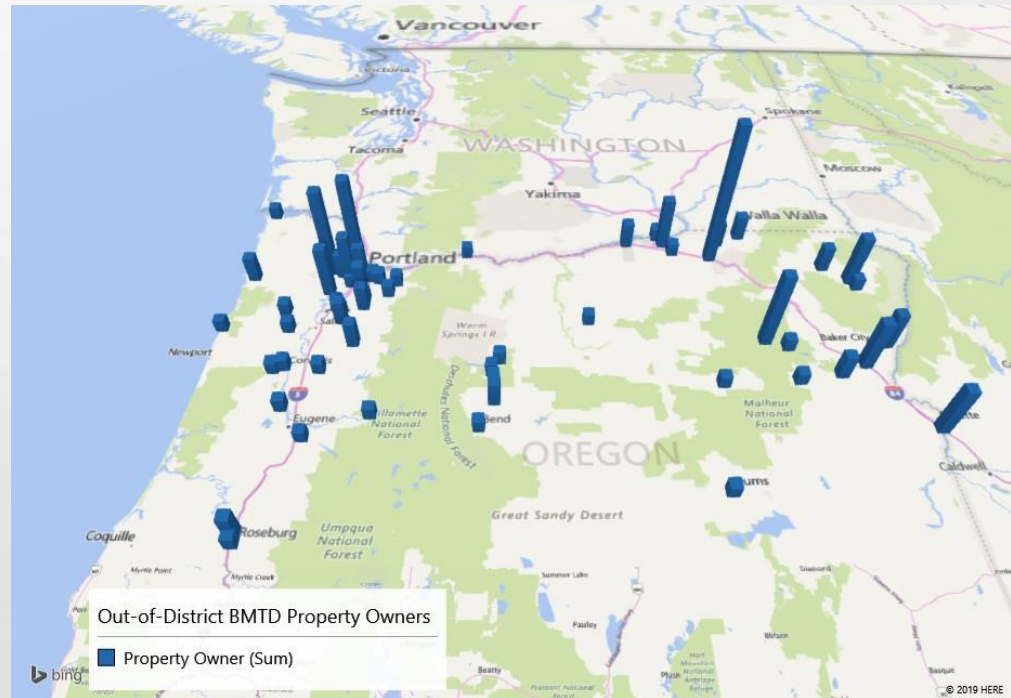
TRANSLATOR DISTRICTS IN OREGON

- **Translator:** A broadcast transmitter device which repeats the signal of a radio or television station to an area not covered by the signal of the originating station.
- **Translator District:** Special district that manages TV translators. Translator districts are common throughout the western United States.
- **Oregon Districts:** Oregon legislature authorized translator districts in 1975. Blue Mountain Translator District has served Baker and Union Counties since 1978. Maupin Translator District closed in 2008.



ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- **In-District Revenue: BMTD sends service charge letters to the owners of all properties where signals can be received. Property owners pay a voter-approved \$100 annual service charge, or request an exemption.**
 - **If the letter is not returned, the property owner receives the charge on their property taxes as a lien.**
- **Out-of-District: BMTD entirely surrounds but does not incorporate 10 cities. Revenue can only be collected from signal users in cities after a physical inspection.**
 - **These users are required to pay the service charge. However, the charge can only be placed on property taxes if this is permitted by voters.**
 - **Voters only approved this in Union County cities, not Baker County cities.**
- **BMTD mails service charge letters to property owners located throughout North America, including 23 Oregon Senate Districts.**



SB 393

- **Introduced Provisions:**

- **Permit voters in cities to consider annexation into BMTD.**
- **Permit all service charge payers to serve on BMTD's Board of Directors.**

- **Amendments Being Drafted:**

- **-1. Exempt state properties from service charge liability. 2 properties in BMTD and 1 property in incorporated Haines may pay the service charge on payments in lieu of tax.**

- **Supporters of Introduced Provisions:**

- **Baker County**
- **Union County**
- **City of Elgin**
- **City of North Powder**
- **City of Baker City**
- **City of Haines**
- **City of Imbler**

SB 394

- **Transmit signals using next-generation ATSC 3.0 standards.**
 - **Distribute Video On Demand content (feature of ATSC 3.0)**
 - **Own and operate or lease or own channel or subchannel, and stream this channel online. Sell advertisements on such channel or subchannel.**
 - **Transmit local emergency alerts on signals.**
 - **Abolish law permitting content replacement with station permission. Stations have not permitted this in 40 years, replacement content can only be transmitted on a pro bono basis, and implementation of this feature is cost-prohibitive.**
- **Supporters of Introduced Provisions:**
 - **Baker and Union Counties**
 - **Cities of Elgin, North Powder, Baker City, Haines, Imbler, Island City**
 - **Emergency Alert Supporters:**
 - **Union County Farm Bureau**
 - **Rural Fire Protection Districts serving Haines, Imbler/Summerville, La Grande, Keating, Medical Springs**

SPECIAL THANKS

- **The Board of Directors thanks the Committee for conducting the first hearing on translator district legislation since 1997.**

