

February 12, 2024

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Transportation
Salem, OR

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1556 – Oregon Department of Transportation Highway 30 Study

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee:

NXTClean Fuels is a next generation clean fuels company with a vision to decarbonize the transportation industry. We have received all of our core State of Oregon permits to construct and operate a world-class clean fuels production facility at Port Westward near Clatskanie, Oregon and continue advancing toward total approval of the project at the federal and local levels. Clatskanie and Port Westward are solely accessible by road traffic via Highway 30 between mile markers 52 and 62, which is why we are strongly in support of Senate Bill 1556. It is of the utmost importance that Highway 30 be maintained to the highest safety and reliability standards for the benefit of the local region.

Our Port Westward proposal is a \$3.25 billion infrastructure project that we estimate will add more than \$ 2.3 billion in economic activity to the region, and be a cornerstone of Oregon's green economy. During construction, NXTClean anticipates creating more than 2,350 new jobs across the community, with more than 1,000 construction tradespeople on site at the peak of a two year construction period. NXTClean has signed an MOU with the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council and the Northwest Council of Carpenters, which means we will work with the unions to recruit local Oregon and southern Washington tradespeople to build our facility. During operation, NXTClean anticipates creating more than 230 permanent jobs at the facility as well as catalyze the creation of another 2,000 jobs across the community with many of these people commuting to and from work. Clearly Highway 30 will be key to all of this economic activity.

Even now, Highway 30 has experienced significant increased traffic and major weather events which have subsequently impacted the roads, traffic barriers, lane markers, shoulder pull-offs, and safety signs. As the major thoroughfare servicing Columbia County, Oregon, it would be an immense benefit to those who reside and travel in the corridor to have ODOT evaluate Highway 30, along with top recommendations, to enhance safety and ensure adequate maintenance.

We support Senate Bill 1556 and applaud Senator Weber for her leadership on this critical transportation issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Efid', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Efid, CEO & Chairperson

NXTClean Fuels, Inc