

February 19, 2026

Sen. Anthony Broadman, Chair
Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
900 Court St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301



RE: Support Senate Bill 1586

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee,

The City of Pendleton would like to express its emphatic support for Senate Bill 1586 and particularly the change to the Regionally Significant Industrial Site (RSIS) program, as well as the expansion of the Advanced Manufacturing R&D Tax Credits.

The City of Pendleton owns and operates the Pendleton UAS Range (PUR), which is believed to be one of the most successful UAS test range's in the US, assisting 175 companies since inception. The Pendleton airport leases space to 12 aerospace and defense contractors developing some of the world's most cutting-edge technologies. Pendleton is also home to the non-profit Oregon UAS Accelerator, which has attracted 47 separate startups. However, despite our success in attracting aerospace and defense contractors to come test in Oregon, capturing the assembly and advanced manufacturing has been more challenging, as Oregon does not offer the same level of incentives as other states.

All this presents major economic impacts for the Eastern Oregon region, but we believe we are just scratching the surface. The City was originally accepted into the RSIS program because of an \$18.2 million investment it made into a UAS Industrial Park. All told, various parties have invested about \$30 million into developing the UAS range, most of which came from the City.

The RSIS incentive has been helpful, but for some companies looking at Pendleton and other rural Oregon locations, it does not currently provide enough stability. The program requires an increase of 25 employee for rural RSIS sites, which can be problematic for companies in early stages of development or smaller companies that may drop below that threshold.

SB 1586 contains language that would allow for more certainty for the RSIS incentive by allowing the jobs to be counted based on the average employment increase at the site. By counting the jobs in this manner, rather than by the employment increase at each individual company, the program will be more effective work more as it was originally intended.

As the state looks to improve its market competitiveness and attract business to Oregon, we strongly urge you to pass this bill and the improvement to the RSIS program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven B. Chrisman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Chrisman
Economic Development & Airport Director
City of Pendleton