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March 18, 2013

Senate Business & Transportation Committee Members

Oregon State Legislature

Salem, Oregon

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 246 and Senate Bill 253

Oregon Legislators,

Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI) is submitting this letter in support for SB 246 along with SB 253. These legislative bills will appropriately address the limitations faced by most every community in Oregon including Southern Oregon as well to have inventories of industrial lands ready to serve the expansion of existing or new businesses.

Senate Bill 246 would provide for forgivable loans to local governments and private property owners to underwrite a portion of the costs of site preparation, subject to specified eligibility criteria. Loans would be partially forgiven based on realized state income tax gains from successful traded sector investment made on those sites receiving forgivable loans.

Senate Bill 253 would provide a limited pool of grants for eligible projects to conduct necessary investigations to better understand the constraints on large industrial sites and reduce risks and uncertainty about site preparation costs. A portion of the grants could be used to assist regions in conducting an inventory and readiness assessment of significant industrial sites in their area.

We urge your support for these legislative proposals as industrial site readiness is critical for every community in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Ron Fox

Executive Director