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May 11, 2015

Representative Brian Clem, Chair House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Oregon State Capitol 900 Court St NE, Room 347 Salem, OR 97301

Subject:

<u>Support of Senate Bill 534</u>, Authorizing a City and an Airport to enter into an agreement for a City to provide sewer service to airport property outside the urban growth boundary.

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs Helm and Post, Representatives Gilliam, Gomberg, McLane and Witt:

The City of Madras is the owner of the Madras Municipal Airport, and owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant located on the Airport that has 1,773 acres of airport management zoned property outside the urban growth boundary (UGB). Senate Bill 534 will allow the City to serve a current major development opportunity on the Airport property adjacent to the City's treatment plant (see attached visual aid).

Passage of this bill will benefit Oregon and the Madras community as follows:

- 1) It will provide an opportunity for economic development (i.e. creation of 45 to 60 new jobs and \$18 million phase 1 private investment) within a State designated distressed County;
- 2) It will protect the Airport property by authorizing industrial use waste to be processed at a DEQ permitted treatment plant versus going into a septic drain field; and
- 3) It will provide a more financially sustainable user base for the City as it has gone into significant debt to create wastewater treatment system capacity in good faith of serving each new development in the City and at its Airport.

This bill provides immediate assistance needed to allow business expansion to occur at the Airport until the City can ultimately annex its airport property. Please let us know if we can answer any further questions in relation to this legislation or the City's current economic development efforts.

Sincerely,

Royce Embanks

Mayor

Encl. Madras Municipal Airport Visual Aid Exhibit

