Good morning Committee Chair Linieger members of the House Economic Development and Trade Committee, Speaker Kotek and Representative Bentz,

Lynn Findley

City Manager of Vale and Interim City Manager City of Nyssa

I would like to thank Speaker Kotek for her visit to Malheur last summer, this Bill reflects her understanding of our situation and shows her concern for our county.

I am here to fully support and encourage adoption of House Bill 2012

The establishment of the **Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region** will greatly assist our communities in workforce development and economic growth.

For years, we have worked to improve our communities with workforce development through Career Technical Education programs, updating our Comprehensive Plans identifying tracts of Industrial Land for development and aggressively expanding our Enterprise Zones to better compete with our neighbors across the river and yet we still lag in growth by double digits and we continue to lose business that are relocating across the river.

The establishment of this official organization will greatly aid the cooperative efforts the three cities and county have been actively engaged in for the last several years. Other than high school sports we have stopped competing against each other years ago and we actively work to assist each other in development issues. This bill takes these efforts to a new and exciting level.

This Bill in conjunction with the transportation hub will ensure we have a trained and available workforce.

Specific advantages:

> Economic Development leading to private investment, job creation and/or retention
>
> Expansion of transportation infrastructure
>
> Supports Trans Load Facility
>
> Workforce Development
>
> Infrastructure expansion into Regionally Significant Industrial Sites
>
> Local oversight and development Board with the ability to recommend exceptions or waivers to DLCD on land use barriers to growth

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today, I would be happy to answer any questions.