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June 23, 2017

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair and Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chair Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources Oregon State Capital
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178, Salem, OR 97301

Subject:

<u>Support of HB 2743 A</u> – A bill directing the Land Conservation and Development Commission to establish and implement pilot program to implement master plan for economic development on land adjacent to airport in rural area

Dear Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair, and Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

On behalf of the City of Madras, I am writing in support of HB 2743 A for the following summary reasons:

- The program grants the ability for a "rural airport" to transfer planning authority to the local municipality. In this case its grants the opportunity to the Madras Municipal Airport which is entirely city owned and is currently entirely zoned "airport management." Madras operates the municipal airport in compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration's grant assurances. The bill expressly protects farm land.
- This planning authority transfer, through expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary, is supported by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners in its March 22, 2017 uploaded letter.
- The Madras City Council has officially approved payment to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for its rulemaking costs to be able to participate in the rural airport program. Paying the extra costs to develop the program are in similar fashion to past legislative assembly action with the Water Resources Department (ORS 536.055), for the purpose of enabling the DLCD to expedite or enhance the regulatory process to provide services voluntarily requested by the City of Madras.
- There was no opposition to HB 2743 in the House Committee on Economic Development and Trade this spring, only significant support from 10 organizations including OSU's Agriculture Research Center.
- This bill streamlines the permitting process for new development and provides a best practices model for a city to provide services when administering zoning, transportation, and sewer service on its own airport property.
- The property contemplated for inclusion into Madras' urban growth boundary is already an adopted Enterprise Zone that is approved through Business Oregon.

We ask for your support to pass this important and needed legislation. HB 2743 A enhances land use planning while promoting economic development for Jefferson County and thereby for the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Royce Embanks, Mayor

Encl. Madras Municipal Airport Visual Aid Exhibit

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