



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Donna Beverage, Commissioner  
Paul Anderes, Commissioner  
R. Matthew Scarfo, Commissioner

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer

1106 K Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

PHONE (541)963-1001

FAX (541)963-1079

TTY 1-800-735-1232

February 4, 2019

Honorable Senator Chuck Riley  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. S-303  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Riley:

RE: Senate Bill 393

The Union County Commissioners support the introduced provisions of Senate Bill 393. Blue Mountain Translator District (BMTD) has served Union County residents since 1978, and we believe that their operations will be improved by the provisions of this legislation.

BMTD's boundaries entirely surround but do not include 8 cities in Union County. This district is funded by the payment of voluntary service charges, but they are unable to bill residents of incorporated cities unless they have discovered an antenna during a physical inspection. The rural properties in the District are sparsely populated, and service charge payers in cities are ineligible to serve on BMTD's governing board, regularly resulting in vacancies. Senate Bill 393 offers solutions to address these systemic problems. Service charge payers in cities would be permitted to serve on BMTD's governing board. Voters in cities would also be permitted to consider annexation into the district.

Union County Commissioners thank the Committee on Business and General Government for holding the first hearing on translator district statutes since 1997. We hope that the Committee will move Senate Bill 393 to the Senate floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Donna Beverage  
Chair