



Date: February 26, 2019

To: Joint Committee On Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

From: Nick Batz, Business Oregon

RE: Follow up to Day One questions

## **Definition of rural**

285A.010 (14) "Rural area" means an area located entirely outside of the acknowledged Portland Metropolitan Area Regional Urban Growth Boundary and the acknowledged urban growth boundaries of cities with populations of 30,000 or more.

## **Eastern Oregon Boarder Board**

The Boarder Board was created in 2017 through HB 2012, which defines the Border Region and directs the Board to develop and implement strategies to address workforce and economic development opportunities in the Border Region. HB 2012 also directs the Board to make policy recommendations to the legislatures that reduces competitive disadvantages between the Border Region and Idaho and creates opportunities for the Border Region to compete against neighboring Idaho counties.

Board members are:

- Shawna Peterson, SD Peterson Law, Chair
- Tiffany Cruikshank, Snake River Produce
- Bill Johnson, Loft Property Management
- Ralph Poole, Poole Oil
- Stuart Reitz, OSU Extension
- Priscilla Valero, Easter Oregon University
- Dana Young, Treasure Valley Community College
- Chris Cummings (as designated by Chris Harder), Business Oregon (ex officio)

Board members represent traded sector business, education, and workforce and economic development and are appointed by the Governor.



The Board spent one year in discussion with local, regional, and state economic and workforce development professionals to identify workforce and economic development opportunities and issues that put the Border Region at a competitive disadvantage with Idaho. One of the results of this effort are the bills presented by Rep Findley. In addition the Board is working on rules and guidelines for programs intended to improve economic and workforce development opportunities in the Border Region.

### **Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region Bill Summaries**

#### **HB 2453**

Summary: Directs the Oregon Business Development Department to develop a workforce development plan that addresses the best methods of communicating the advantages of Oregon's minimum wage laws and workforce opportunities in the western Treasure Valley and develops a marketing plan which will encourage people to move and work in the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region.

#### **HB 2454**

Summary: Allows out-of-state applicant seeking occupational license in Oregon more time to meet Oregon standards if applicant is already licensed in another state and is seeking to work in Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region. Applicants granted licenses or other authorization under this section shall be required to meet all Oregon standards not later than two years following the date of initial granting of the license or other authorization.

#### **HB 2455**

Summary: Includes developing and expanding broadband Internet access service as form of economic development for which Oregon Business Development Department may fund loans and grants for use in Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region

#### **HB 2456**

Summary: Allows counties to rezone non-viable farmlands within Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region from exclusive farm use to residential use.



**HB 2457**

Summary: Directs Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, Department of Education and Office of Child Care to make specified evaluations to increase number of educators in Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region who are available to teach courses in secondary math and science and in career and technical education programs.

**HB 2933**

Summary: Clarifies, for purposes of Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board activities, that "workforce development" includes development of residential housing necessary to attract and keep employees in Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region.