



February 1st, 2021

Re: HB 2345

Dear Chair Lively & Committee Members,

I am Mayor Don Ware. I would like to encourage support for HB 2345. The City and regional partners including the cities of Lebanon, Sweet Home, Harrisburg, Halsey, Adair Village, Monroe and Philomath were able to take a regional approach to economic development with the help of Biz Oregon and move forward with key support to local entrepreneurs, thanks in part to HB 3110.

As you know, rural areas such as the cities identified in the proposed bill have limited financial means to accomplish retention and attraction efforts. A regional approach greatly impacts the ability of small communities to promote not only their individual communities, but their region. Smartly maximizing existing staff and other economic development experts benefits the entire business community. I feel it is worthwhile and admirable of the State Legislature to support these grass-roots efforts.

As you can see, infusing small, rural areas with this kind of financial support will be essential as areas attempt to move beyond the Coronavirus Pandemic and the steep financial burdens this has placed on many small businesses. The State of Oregon does a wonderful job with Biz Oregon and it is tremendous when the rural communities can effectively take advantage of those resources. Financial aid such as HB 2345 allow us to do so.

I believe that HB 2345 provides the first critical step bridging the State with rural Oregon. Please consider supporting this important bill now and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Ware". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Don Ware

c: Council
League of Oregon Cities
Staff
File