



February 15, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman, Chair

Senator Lynn Findley, Vice Chair

Senate Energy & Environment Committee

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, members of the committee, I am chair of the Oregon City Business Alliance (OCBA) and we at OCBA are urging your support of SB 630 – a bill that would create a pilot program, The Abernethy Green Project, to give local governments and their development partners insights on how to develop former landfill sites in a safe and environmentally friendly way.

Oregon City at its north end and in the Urban Renewal area has a former landfill that for 40 years has been sitting - decomposing. It is 62 acres of empty land adjoining already existing infrastructure, and utilities and public transportation. Three roads already abut the landfill, and if this pilot project is approved, they will be transformed from congested, unsafe corridors to safe complete streets that not only improve traffic flow but also better protect pedestrians and cyclists.

OCBA is a group of businesses and individuals working to encourage, promote and support a positive and sustainable economic environment in Oregon City. We advocate for a diverse, healthy, and growing economy by building strategic relationships with the business community, civic leaders, elected officials, and the public. Oregon City is the 11th fastest-growing city in Oregon and like most cities, it is desperately short of housing to sustain growth. Likewise, it is lacking jobs to keep the young here, and indoor recreational opportunities for the youth of the area in our wet weather seasons.

The Abernethy Green Project on the 62 acres of empty land would provide over 500 multi-family housing units, 1,000 full and part-time jobs when fully operational, and

many retail options that reflect the desires of the community. Discussions are underway with Portland Winterhawks to include a community ice rink, and with Dark Horse Comics for a movie memorabilia museum and working sound stage.

Oregon City stands ready and poised to be a leader in showing how a former landfill can safely and in an environmentally sustainable manner be developed to meet the challenges of all growing cities. It will require a public-private partnership and your support of SB 630 will help facilitate that partnership.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kent Ziegler



Chair of OCBA

