



February 16, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Commissioner Adam Marl, City of Oregon City
Re: Support of SB 630

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, members of the committee, my name is Adam Marl. I'm an Oregon City Commissioner, and I'm writing to express my support of SB 630.

When I decided to go for elected office at the age of 20, it was because I felt that too many decisions were being made without due consideration of the generations to follow. As a lifelong resident of Oregon's first city, I understand the need to preserve my community's historic, small town feel. Despite my initial skepticism, I have become a strong and vocal supporter of this critical mixed-use development for three simple reasons.

Chief among them is the inequitable impact that I-205 tolling will have on Oregon City. A lack of retail and commercial options leaves many of us driving elsewhere to work and shop. Abernethy Green will decrease the need to get on the freeway in the first place by allowing residents to keep their dollars local.

My second consideration is the growing talk of a recession in the near future. Abernethy Green will create over 3,000 temporary construction jobs and 988 long-term jobs after completion. This will be a gamechanger for my historically blue-collar community that depended on jobs at the now defunct Blue Heron Paper Mill, a site that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is redeveloping to allow access to Oregon's hidden gem, the Willamette Falls.

And lastly, our state's housing crisis demands urgency. With the addition of over 500 multi-family units to our local housing supply, this will help Oregon address our housing production goals while making it more affordable for people my age to continue calling Oregon City home.

Despite all of this, Abernethy Green cannot move forward without public support, and SB 630 is just one of several efforts to secure public dollars for this important project, including an urban renewal ballot measure that will appear before Oregon City voters in May to approve the issuance of bonded indebtedness. Since this landfill serviced communities well beyond our city limits for years, we are hoping the state will partner with us to clean up this site.

Oregon City is ready to show other jurisdictions how redeveloping a blighted property within a UGB can help address the housing shortage while respecting the land use system that makes Oregon special. For the sake of our current and future residents, I ask for your support on SB 630.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Marl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "M".

Commissioner Adam Marl
City of Oregon City