

Submitter: Chris Hawthorne

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1047

Statement of Support for SB1047

I am writing in strong support of SB1047, legislation that recognizes the pressing need for focused economic development in Curry County. This bill directs the Oregon Business Development Department to study access to resources for development in Curry County and report their findings to the Legislative Assembly. This effort is a crucial step toward unlocking the county's economic potential and ensuring long-term prosperity for its residents.

Curry County, with a population of just over 23,000, has long faced unique economic challenges due to its geographic isolation and limited access to business development resources. While the region boasts incredible natural beauty, hardworking communities, and strategic coastal access, it has struggled to attract the type of quality business growth necessary to sustain families, create jobs, and strengthen the local economy.

By commissioning this study, SB1047 will provide a foundation for identifying barriers and opportunities for investment in Curry County. It will help the state understand what infrastructure, resource development, and business support systems are needed to foster sustainable economic growth — particularly in rural and unincorporated areas that are too often overlooked.

Curry County's future depends on strategic development that respects its environment while offering its citizens access to quality employment and local business opportunities. SB1047 acknowledges this need and sets in motion a thoughtful, data-driven process that can help make it a reality.

I urge the Legislature to support SB1047 and stand with Curry County as it works to build a stronger, more resilient economy for its communities.