

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1047**

**Submitted by Milton Finch**

**Owner, Highway 101 Liquor Store**

**Port Orford, Oregon**

**March 18, 2025**

To the Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Milton Finch, and I have been the proud owner of Highway 101 Liquor Store in Port Orford for the past 21 years. I have been a resident of Port Orford for 35 years, and I have witnessed the challenges and growth of this community throughout my time here. I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 1047, which would provide critical economic development opportunities for our area, particularly in the context of a proposed golf course development.

As a small business owner, I can attest to the economic hardships faced by our community. While Port Orford is a beautiful and unique place to live, we are often overlooked when it comes to state resources and opportunities for growth. A golf course would not only bring a new stream of tourism and visitors to our area, but it would also create new jobs, increase local spending, and elevate the overall economic standing of our community. This bill would help ensure that such a project is both viable and sustainable in the long term.

Over the years, I have seen firsthand how important it is to diversify our local economy. Many of our businesses, including mine, are highly dependent on the ebb and flow of tourism. A golf course would provide an opportunity for a steady, year-round influx of visitors, which could have a ripple effect on local restaurants, retail, lodging, and other services. This development would not only benefit my business but also create more opportunities for my fellow small business owners in Port Orford.

Additionally, the potential for job creation associated with the development of the golf course cannot be overstated. From construction jobs to long-term employment in the hospitality and service sectors, the economic benefits would reach far beyond the immediate construction phase. This is exactly the type of sustainable development that we need in our community to support the livelihoods of families and workers who have lived here for generations.

Senate Bill 1047 provides a vital framework for making this vision a reality, and I am fully supportive of its passage. The opportunity for economic growth and job creation through a golf course project would be a game-changer for Port Orford, and I urge you to support this important piece of legislation.

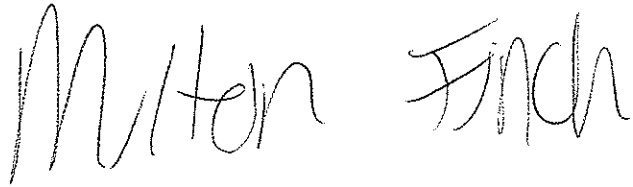
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Milton Finch

Owner, Highway 101 Liquor Store

Port Orford, Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milton Finch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Milton" is written with a large, sweeping 'M' and the last name "Finch" is written with a more compact, cursive script.