

RE: In Support of Senate Bill 1047

Dear David:

Please share this letter of support for you and Representative Court Boice as you sponsor Senate Bill 1047 relating to access to resources for development in Curry County. As you are well aware, our communities were similarly impacted by the reduction in the timber and fishing industries in the 1980s and 1990s. Tourism has stepped in to fill that void in our coastal communities, thanks in large part to the Travel Oregon initiative. According to the Travel Oregon website, in 2021, visitors spent \$2.4 billion on the Oregon Coast which led to the direct employment of 25,300 locals. But the southern Oregon coast has lagged behind the north coast, which benefits from inland urban centers.

This bill requiring the Oregon Business Development Department to study access to resources for development in Curry County and submit findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026, will support beneficial development.

This letter is specifically in support of the current golf destination project underway in Curry County just north of Port Orford. According to the Golf Alliance of Oregon 2021 Economic Impact Report, golf in Oregon supports over 16,500 jobs for Oregon residents with \$508.1 million in wage income and more than \$69.0 million in state and local taxes.

I can personally attest to the positive economic impact that Bandon Dunes Golf Resort has made for the community of Bandon, both directly and indirectly, in the form of visitors to our area who shop, spend and stay at local hotels, as well as in goodwill and philanthropy through the mutually beneficial relationship between resort ownership and the City of Bandon, other key stakeholders, and service providers. Bandon Dunes Golf Resort began construction in 1997, opened in 1999, and we have not looked back. In that time, our town of 3,500 has improved our downtown aesthetics, built a community center, public library and performing arts center funded by locals with grants from generous donors, including many from Bandon Dunes and their charitable trusts.

I have had the privilege to serve as Mayor of Bandon for over 20 years and recall clearly the concerns expressed by residents about increased tourism and environmental impacts, which never materialized. In fact, the resort has partnered with the City of Bandon in our gorse eradication efforts. You may recall that Bandon has a history of catastrophic fires fueled by the non-native plant. Additionally, modern golf course maintenance practices are now engineered in support of environmental stewardship. It's my understanding that the developers of the golf project at Port Orford have offered to partner with the City of Port Orford to reuse the effluent water currently discharged into the ocean, where the Port of Port Orford is a small, but active, fishery.

Responsible development is an investment in our communities that helps us sustain local infrastructure, provides jobs, and revenue for the county. I can think of no reason to delay these efforts following the necessary studies.

Thank you and best of luck to Port Orford and Curry County.

Sincerely,

