



April 18, 2017

Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
c/o [jwmtr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jwmtr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: 4/20 Hearing on Regional Infrastructure Fund (House Bill 5025 and Senate Bill 5530)

Dear Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

This letter is to reinforce the Port of Portland's support for Governor Brown's 2017-19 Regional Solutions budget request. The \$11 million of lottery bond proceeds included in the Regional Infrastructure Fund is key to supporting regional priority economic and community development projects across the state, and the exceptional work of the Regional Solutions Team that provide one stop access to state resources and technical assistance in removing barriers.

As you know, there are 11 Regional Solutions Teams across Oregon with staff representation from the Governor's office and five state agencies (Oregon Department of Transportation, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Business Oregon, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services). Each of these teams is led by an advisory committee comprised of diverse, regional leaders.

As the chair of the Metro Regional Solutions Advisory Committee, I can speak directly to the value of the Regional Solutions teams. The Regional Solutions Teams across Oregon are charged with addressing regional priorities that are identified and endorsed by their respective advisory committees. The cross-functional composition of these teams plays a key role in problem-solving on more intractable issues related to regional economic and community development. The teams bring together people and resources to solve local problems. They collaborate. They remove roadblocks. They leverage resources to make the money go farther. They work directly with business and industry to create new jobs and retain old ones.

Regional Solutions Team plays a critical role in connecting all the dots so regional challenges are being addressed holistically. In the Portland metro region, building on the region's work on industrial site readiness, the Metro Regional Solutions Team focused state resources on moving three of these industrial sites to development readiness. This requires assistance with regulatory approvals, infrastructure and transportation funding, and cultural resource work.

- North Hillsboro Industrial Area
- Clackamas Development Agency Industrial site in Clackamas
- Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park (one of the largest brownfield redevelopment sites in the state) and Gresham Vista Business Park

The Metro Regional Solutions Team is currently working on proactively aligning our industrial land readiness projects with workforce development strategies in east Multnomah County to address poverty issues. Other regionally significant projects include Nike campus expansion, Portland 82<sup>nd</sup> street safety improvements, OHSU Knight Cancer South Waterfront Development Project, Willamette Falls Legacy Project, brownfield redevelopments, Troutdale downtown redevelopment, Columbia Corridor levee recertification and many other initiatives.

Without the Regional Solutions Team and the catalytic funding proposed in the budget, it is difficult for state agencies to have clarity on and achieve regional priorities. The Regional Solutions Teams provide a central point of contact for local jurisdictions, multi-agency project management and accountability.

For 2017-19, each of the Regional Solutions teams have identified key priorities for focus over the next two years, and the budget before your subcommittee reflects those priorities that advance economic and community development projects and leverage public and private funds. I urge your subcommittee's support of continued investment in the Regional Infrastructure Fund and Regional Solutions Team budget.

Sincerely,



Bill Wyatt  
Executive Director

- c: Steve Bender, Committee Coordinator
- Senator Bill Hansell
- Senator Rod Monroe
- Representative Mark Meek
- Representative Mike Nearman
- Representative Ron Noble
- Representative Jeff Reardon