

Accelerating Business Growth and Innovation

November 13, 2017

Clark County Planning Commission c/o Sonja Wiser, Program Assistant Clark County Community Planning P.O. Box 9810 Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

RE: Freight Rail Dependent Uses Comprehensive Plan Change and Overlay Map

**Dear Planning Commissioners:** 

The Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) would like to express its support for the implementation of the freight rail dependent uses in the 2017 amendment to the Clark County Comprehensive Plan and the inclusion of the entire Rural Industrial Land Bank (RILB) in the Comprehensive Plan and Overlay Map.

Serving as the Associate Development Organization for Clark County, the CREDC is a public-private partnership of over 150 investors and strategic partners working together to advance the economic vitality of the community through business growth and innovation.

Identifying development-ready employment sites is a critical part of the CREDC's strategy to attract and retain traded sector jobs in Clark County. The 2016 Employment Land Study defined the existing inventory of employment land and its development readiness. The project examined the current and near-term supply of large (20+ acres) employment sites available to accommodate the expansion of existing employers and the recruitment of new employers throughout Clark County. This project shed light on the limited acreage available for future development. Given the CREDC's recent influx of inquiries for large employment sites (see enclosure), addressing this low supply is critical.

Inclusion of the entire RILB would expand the supply of available land for new and growing companies requiring rail services to locate in Clark County. The development potential of one specific site, commonly referred to as the Lagler property, is currently unknown due to litigation over the RILB and whether the site will continue to be zoned as Light Industrial or be reverted to Agricultural-zoned land. Ensuring that this site remains zoned as Light Industrial would contribute to maintaining an adequate supply of development-ready employment land in Clark County.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued support of advancing economic vitality throughout Clark County.

Sincerely,

Mike Bomar CREDC President

**Enclosure: Clark County Project Inquiries** 

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To: Railroad Advisory Board

From: Elizabeth Scott, Director of Business Recruitment, CREDC

Date: September 18, 2017

Re: SB 5517 Implementation Testimony

The following tables include project inquiries to support implementation of SB 5517.

## **CLARK COUNTY 2017 PROJECT INQUIRIES**

| DATE | PROJECT     | INDUSTRY       | ACRES       | JOBS        | RAIL      |
|------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 2-17 | Royale      | C&E Mfg        | 300         | 1,500-2,500 | No        |
| 3-17 | Crystal     | Glass Mfg      | 100 -150    | 500-800     | Preferred |
| 4-17 | Julep       | Paper Mfg      | 30 - 50     | 100         | Yes       |
| 4-17 | Mojito      | Food Mfg       | 100 - 200   | 50-100      | No        |
| 5-17 | Tile        | Mfg & Office   | 22          | 100         | Preferred |
| 7-17 | Zen         | Chem Mfg       | 10 - 15     | 20          | Yes       |
| 7-17 | Supernova   | Battery Mfg    | 150         | 500         | Yes       |
| 7-17 | Noah        | Mfg            | 100 - 200   | Unknown     | Preferred |
| 8-17 | Mitt        | Metals Mfg     | 500 – 1,000 | 1,000       | Yes       |
| 8-17 | Eagle       | Clean Tech Mfg | 150 - 400   | 1,000       | Yes       |
| 9-17 | Epic2       | Paper Mfg      | 100         | 150         | Yes       |
| 9-17 | Renaissance | Clean Tech Mfg | 20+         | 1,000       | Preferred |
| 9-17 | Metropolis  | Office         | 100         | Thousands   | No        |

## **FORMER CLARK COUNTY PROJECT INQUIRIES**

| YEAR | PROJECT    | INDUSTRY               | ACRES     | RAIL |
|------|------------|------------------------|-----------|------|
| 2011 | L'Aurora   | Food Processing        | 100       | _    |
| 2012 |            | <b>Food Processing</b> | 200       |      |
| 2013 | Rush       | Mfg                    | 200 - 300 | _    |
| 2013 |            | FTZ Mfg                | 45        |      |
| 2014 | Wildcat    | Mfg                    | 40 - 80   | _    |
| 2015 | _          | _                      | 200 - 300 | Yes  |
| 2015 | _          | _                      | 150       | Yes  |
| 2015 |            | _                      | 100 - 250 | Yes  |
| 2015 | _          | _                      | 100       | Yes  |
| 2016 | Epic       | Warehouse/Dist         | 50 - 60   | _    |
| 2016 | Tremendous | Warehouse/Dist         | 50 - 100  | _    |