



Senator Bill Hansell

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Hansell Champions BMRC Land For The City of Pendleton

Salem, OR – The Oregon State Senate passed a bill chief-sponsored by Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena) Wednesday that will encourage economic development and housing opportunities for the city of Pendleton. Senate Bill 671A, which conveys the land under the Blue Mountain Recovery Center as well as the land on the former Eastern Oregon Training Center to the city of Pendleton, passed out of the Senate 29 to 1.

“This is a very important bill for the city of Pendleton,” said Hansell. “Former Representative Bob Jensen and Former Senator Dave Nelson worked for many years trying to keep the building open; however when I arrived in Salem, I was told that train had already left the station and the BMRC building was set to close for good. If we are not able to keep that building open, Pendleton should be able to develop the land for economic gain as well as other opportunities the city believes would be helpful.”

Senate Bill 671A is the second part in allowing Pendleton the ability to have this economic developmental project. The first part came through last December when the Legislature’s Emergency Board awarded \$1,035,000 to the city for the demolition of the Blue Mountain Recovery Center Building as well as the demolition of eight other buildings on the former Eastern Oregon Training Center. As the state of Oregon does not have any plans for this land, this bill allows for the land to be conveyed to the city for development.

Pendleton currently plans to use the 10.88 acres on the former Blue Mountain Recovery Center as a location for industrial redevelopment. This would support about 80 manufacturing jobs in the city. The 9.88 acres known as the western portion of the former Eastern Oregon Training Center site is currently planned as work force housing or housing for students at Blue Mountain Community College, an issue that is high need for the city.

“It was a very sad day in Eastern Oregon when the Blue Mountain Recovery Center closed its doors,” Hansell said. “But with the passage of Senate Bill 671A, I am very optimistic that Pendleton will grow their economy and this land conveyance will benefit not only Pendleton, but also Umatilla County and Eastern Oregon as a whole.”

Senate Bill 671A moves on to the House for the next phase of the process.

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