



**REPRESENTATIVE MARK JOHNSON  
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE DISTRICT 52**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Thursday, May 14, 2015

**CONTACT:** Cassie Hayt  
503.986.1452  
[Rep.MarkJohnson@state.or.us](mailto:Rep.MarkJohnson@state.or.us)

**Rep. Mark Johnson, Senator Chuck Thomsen And Local Officials Support  
Economic Development In Cascade Locks**

*Thoroughly Vetted Nestlé Project Would Bring Jobs And Improve Conservation Efforts*

**Salem, OR** – Representative Mark Johnson (R-Hood River), Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River) and local officials today reiterated their support for increased economic development and job creation in Cascade Locks. The City and Port of Cascade Locks and various Oregon state agencies have been working to vet a Nestlé plant project for the community that is estimated to create 50 jobs and provide more than \$26 million in sales per year in direct and indirect economic benefits, as well as another \$36 million during the construction phase of the project. Additionally, the State of Oregon is thoroughly investigating the project for potential environmental and economic impacts.

“It’s disappointing to read today Representative Ann Lininger’s statement disparaging an important and community-changing project that will bring jobs and improve the quality of life in Cascade Locks,” said Rep. Johnson and Senator Thomsen in response to Rep. Lininger’s comments opposing the economic development project. “Rep. Lininger represents a very high-income district anchored in Lake Oswego, but double-digit unemployment and families struggling to find work are unfortunately still a reality in Cascade Locks. The opposition of this project is just the latest example of misguided legislators and special interest groups imposing their values on rural communities. Additionally, they are choosing to overlook and discard the good work of multiple state agencies that have thoroughly studied this issue over a period of years. We encourage Rep. Lininger to visit Oregon’s rural communities to see firsthand the economic hardships many of them are still facing.”

In addition to the creation of 50 new family-wage jobs, the project is expected to increase revenues for the city of Cascade Locks through water, wastewater and electricity fees collected from the new plant. The project will also increase and improve conservation efforts by cutting transportation costs and reducing both diesel use and carbon emissions from trucks transporting the water to consumers. While the project has received approval for several steps, a thorough review of the project is still being administered by both local and state stakeholders.

“Approval by the Water Resources Department of the proposed cross transfer of water rights between the City of Cascade Locks and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will benefit the community and improve Oxbow Hatchery fish production,” said Gordon Zimmerman, Cascade Locks City Administrator. “Approval is an important step in our evaluation of Nestlé Waters’ proposed bottling plant, but the City and Port of Cascade Locks will continue to carefully review every aspect of the project to ensure that it will benefit the people of Cascade Locks.”

“This is a project that will adequately balance conservation and environmental protection efforts with the needs of families in Cascade Locks,” said Rep. Johnson. “It represents a long-term commitment to invest in rural Oregon and will open the door for other kinds of investment in struggling communities.”

The project is supported by both state legislators and local officials from the region, including Rep. Mark Johnson, Senator Chuck Thomsen, Cascade Locks Mayor Tom Cramblett and Port of Cascade Locks President Jess Groves.

###