



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate approves regional solution to expedite rural building projects

SB 582A helps rural Oregon get to work by allowing the state and local areas to combine resources

SALEM—With an intent to spur economic growth in rural Oregon, today the Oregon Senate approved legislation that will allow the state to work with local governments to review construction projects and inspect new buildings. Senate Bill 582A, which passed the Senate on a vote of 30-0, provides greater flexibility for the state's building permit and inspection program to improve building regulation and support job creation in rural Oregon.

“This bill strengthens rural Oregon communities and promotes economic growth by helping local governments fund infrastructure improvements and get to work on new commercial and industrial buildings,” said Senator Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), chair of the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development. “Allowing this cooperation between the state and counties ensures that buildings meet the proper standards and that construction isn't delayed because of a lack of resources to conduct an inspection. That's why this bill is a top priority of mine.”

In some rural counties, declining revenue from timber payments and other sources have put essential services in jeopardy. These local governments may find themselves in a Catch-22 if they don't have the resources to inspect and approve job-creating construction projects that would in turn produce much-needed revenue.

Senate Bill 582A allows the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to enter into agreements with local governments to when requested to provide additional building inspection services. The bill also provides for special consideration of the needs of rural and remote regions of Oregon when crafting and adopting the state building code.

“Regional solutions like the one outlined in this bill provide a framework to ensure that rural Oregon communities have the resources needed to provide vital services,” said Roblan. “Senate Democrats have made it a key priority this session to promote economic growth in rural Oregon. SB 582A will help get rural communities back to work by providing a flexible system for reviewing construction projects.”

Senate Bill 582A will now go to the Oregon House of Representatives for a vote.

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