



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR

## NEWS RELEASE

July 3, 2013

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### **Passage of industrial lands bills to spur job creation in Oregon**

*SB 246 and SB 253 establish the Oregon Industrial Site Readiness Program to attract businesses to locate here*

SALEM—Today the Oregon Senate passed two jobs bills that Senate Democrats have made a top priority this session. Senate Bill 246B and Senate Bill 253B create the Oregon Industrial Site Readiness Program to attract more businesses to the state.

“The legislation is designed to help local governments attract manufacturers and other employers that could provide a significant number of high-wage jobs and bring new income into Oregon,” said Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), chief sponsor of the bill. “The items outlined in these bills make it easier to do business in Oregon by growing our supply of valuable industrial land.”

A recent survey of the inventory of potential sites for industrial development found that many of these areas would need significant work to be ready for a company to relocate and develop the site.

Senate Bill 246B allows the Oregon Business Development Department to work with public entities to develop certified regionally significant industrial sites. Its companion bill, Senate Bill 253B, creates the Oregon Industrial Site Readiness Assessment Program, which will provide grants to help local governments survey the availability of industrial sites and create a plan to help develop these areas.

Together, the bills create a new framework for Oregon’s cities and counties to access loans and other funds to cultivate an adequate supply of industrial-ready land by improving grading, infrastructure, and other needs.

“Senate Democrats have been focused all session on passing bills that will create jobs and make it easier to do business in Oregon,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “Making our industrial lands ready for development will bring more companies to Oregon and create jobs.”

In 2011, Senate Democrats passed SB 766, which set an expedited standard for projects of state significance and outlined a process for establishing regionally-significant industrial areas. SB 246B and SB 253B represent the next steps to increasing the overall supply of land on which industrial projects can be located.

These bills grew out of recommendations from Metro, the Portland Business Alliance, and the Oregon Business Plan and are supported by a broad coalition, including the Association of Oregon Industries, the Oregon Business Association, and cities across the state.

SB 246B and SB 253B now go to the floor of the Oregon House of Representatives a vote.

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*For more information on the Senate Majority Caucus, please visit [www.orsenatemajority.org](http://www.orsenatemajority.org)*