

House Rural Communities
9:00 AM
Thursday, May 29, 2014
HR E, State Capitol, Salem, Oregon

Members Present: Representative Clem, Representative McKeown, Representative Cameron, Representative Davis, Representative Holvey, Representative Thatcher and Representative Unger

Oceangoing Research Vessel Program

Testimony from: [Jack Barth](#), Associate Dean for Research, College of Earth Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University; and Alejandra Sanchez, Graduate Student, Oregon State University

In 2013 the Legislature passed [House Bill 3451](#) which provided funds during the 2013-14 biennium to support the use of OSU's R/V Oceanus to research and study Oregon coastal waters. Presenters discussed the importance of conducting research to help gain a greater understanding of ocean dynamics, currents, warming, and issues like ocean acidification. In January, 2014 OSU accepted research proposals, considered how they met the guidelines and goals of House Bill 3451 and selected three proposals to undertake. One research project has already been successfully completed and the remaining projects will be completed prior to May, 2015. In addition to providing important research to OSU and national ocean data centers the program gives students the opportunity to work as the chief scientist in charge of the vessel, which is a critical element to prepare graduates. OSU will submit a report on the completion of the research projects no later than November, 2015.

Developing Industry Food Clusters

Testimony from: [Joel Fischer](#), Senior Policy Analyst, Oregon Business Association; Dave Zepponi, President, Northwest Food Processors Association; and Patrick Criteser, President and CEO, Tillamook Creamery Association

The Oregon Business Association, Oregon Business Council and Northwest Food Processors Association have partnered together to form an ad hoc committee of senior leaders from the traded sector food industry known as the Food Industry Leadership Team (Leadership Team). The purpose of the group is to further the Oregon Business Plan's goal of creating 25,000 new net jobs per year through 2020 by enhancing Oregon's already strong food processing industry. Currently, there are 637 food processing locations in Oregon, 114 of those are in rural counties. The industry is responsible for 24,700 direct employment jobs and a total output and value added benefit of \$14.2 billion. Oregon has an existing advantage in the food processing industry because of its global position and competitive advantages of Oregon's climate, energy prices,

soil and water. In the last 10 years, with the support of the state and food industry leadership, the number of jobs in this industry has increased by 4,400. The Leadership Team is continuing its efforts of expanding middle class job opportunities in Oregon through the global food market place by identifying high leverage opportunities. The Leadership Team has identified the following areas to continue to investigate: innovation; export/international trade; branding - attracting top talent and consumer facing brand; workforce; food industry business, environment, and competitiveness; and access to capital.

Industrial Lands Programs

Testimony from: Gary Van Huffel, Business Development Manager, Business Oregon; Alex Campbell, Executive Director, The Partnership for Economic Development in Douglas County; and Sierra Gardiner, Industrial Lands Specialist, Business Oregon

The current capacity for potential development of industrial land is in rural communities along Eastern Oregon I-84 and Southern Oregon I-5 South because the metropolitan area is already very developed and expensive. Oregon's Site Certification program has been around for over a decade and has led to the successful development of the Facebook property in Prineville and the Google property in the Dalles. The certification program is available to both private and public site owners and provides an opportunity to look at a site and see what it needs to become market ready. Once, a site has gone through the certification process it becomes a premiere location and Business Oregon works with interested companies to educate them on available certified sites. In 2011, the Legislature passed [Senate Bill 766](#) establishing the regionally significant industrial areas and projects of state significance program. Business Oregon has designated regionally significant industrial areas in Douglas County, Goshen, Hermiston and Grants Pass. [Senate Bill 246](#), 2013 offers an opportunity for loan forgiveness for developing regionally significant industrial sites based on the jobs created. [Senate Bill 253](#), 2013, although not currently funded, created the structure for a grant program that would help develop regional inventories, classifications, and assessments of known sites.