



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

November 14, 2011

The Honorable Chet Phillips
Mayor of Boardman
200 City Center Circle
PO Box 229
Boardman, OR 97818

The Honorable Judge Terry Tallman
P.O Box 788
Heppner, OR 97836

Marvin Padberg
2 Marine Drive
PO Box 200
Boardman, OR 97818

Dear Mayor Phillips, Judge Tallman and Port Commissioner Padberg:

I have received your letter requesting the Boardman Workforce Housing and Community Development project be designated as an Oregon Solutions project. After reviewing your letter and the assessment conducted by Oregon Solutions staff, I feel this project supports Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives.

Therefore, by this letter, I am designating this as an Oregon Solutions project and appointing *Senator David Nelson and Dirk Dirkson* as the co-conveners to lead a team of public, private and civic partners toward innovative implementation tools to address the workforce housing and community development needs in Boardman.

Rural workforce housing is important to my administration and I commend you on taking a collaborative approach to addressing your local needs. Finding a healthy jobs-housing balance to reduce commuting provides a number of benefits including enhanced community prosperity and economic development opportunities, along with less traffic on our highways and decreased emissions. Using the Oregon Solutions approach brings together partners in a neutral forum and increases the ability to integrate interests and leverage investments. This project has the potential to strengthen the connection between the non-profit, business and government agencies on the ground in your community and to create a model which can be replicated in other parts of the state.

I am also pleased that you are addressing one of the priorities identified by the Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee and the Rural Housing Task Force. Please keep the Governor's Office updated on this effort and thank you for your work and enthusiasm thus far.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

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