



SENATE BILL 1182, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

TESTIMONY OF ANDREW HOAN, PRESIDENT & CEO, PORTLAND METRO CHAMBER

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Committee Members, as well as Senator Frederick, Pham, and Representative Nelson for being champions of this bill. Thank you all for your service. On behalf of the Chamber's 2300 members from across the Portland region and beyond, we are in support and urge you to vote yes.

As you are aware, for well over a decade, the Chamber has annually produced the definitive guide to the region's economy, the State of the Economy. This year's report documented the economic conditions ending in December 2024 and demonstrated that, for the first time in recent memory, we are in a localized recession while the rest of the nation is expanding and accelerating. Since then, with trade wars and other challenges beyond our control, the economic outlook has not improved.

Additionally, as you are aware, the Chamber, with our partners at the City of Portland and Multnomah County, for the first time ever, advanced the first-ever analysis and guide to the Portland region's contribution to state GDP, jobs, and tax revenue. Stated simply – State tax revenue per capita in Multnomah County is 56% higher than in the rest of the state. Translation: growth in Portland is a 'must-have', not a 'nice to have', if the state is to be fiscally viable.

This is why we must have projects like the public-private partnership that is proposed by the Albina Vision Trust. In fact, it is community, working with the public sector, private sector and beyond, that should be held up as a model for investment, and prioritized legislatively. This is how we create a virtuous economic cycle in our city, and as such, the state.

This effort, led by Albina Vision Trust, is the needed path forward and departure from the past status quo. For decades, our city thought of itself as an international example of what it means to develop with intention. But the way we've thought about ourselves hasn't always lined up with the outcomes we've produced.

The work of the Albina Vision Trust is, and will, transform the way that working class and historically displaced people relate to and access our central city. It is also about building a future that is different for those who have been left out of the past so they can lay claim to future economic vibrancy. We can build, grow and expand in ways that center communities that have historically been pushed to the margins of conversations about development. And the beautiful thing is that when we do, everybody wins.

Albina Vision Trust is doing more than simply rebuilding the community in Lower Albina, they are building one of the most innovative and dynamic neighborhoods in the world. It will add much needed housing, commercial and community space, retail and more; side by side with our most storied sports franchises in the Portland Trailblazers and bringing our city together in the process.

No one could be better suited to reimagine, rebuild and reactivate 8 acres of central city real estate. This bill allows the community to lead development, and generate needed economic activity, jobs, and revenue for the state.