



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2015

**Contact:** Lisa Gardner, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, 541-682-5245

### **Governor Signs Bill Authorizing Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership**

Today, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 482 creating the Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership Advisory Committee that will oversee a multi-county and multi-state effort to support regional manufacturing, including leading businesses in primary metals, wood products, semiconductors, electronics, medical devices, food processing, technological inputs and machinery.

The Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership (PNMP) formed last year in response to the federal government's Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative, which aims to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in the United States and create a competitive climate for job creation and private investment. High-performing manufacturing sectors contain the promise of well-paying, middle class jobs across urban and rural communities.

The Partnership comprises 17 contiguous counties in Oregon and Southern Washington, extending from the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan region, north to the Portland-Vancouver region, and east to Hood River in the Columbia River Gorge.

"The PNMP will be an important tool to address economic prosperity in the region," noted Lisa Gardner, Intergovernmental Relations Manager for the City of Eugene. "By partnering we can take advantage of each other's technical expertise to understand the causes of the problems and paths towards solutions."

The Senate Bill was sponsored locally by Senators Edwards and Representative Val Hoyle. A similar bill was recently introduced and heard in the Washington State legislature.

The Partnership will be applying again this year for federal IMCP designation as a manufacturing community. This year's application focuses on Advanced Material Science (Advanced Wood Products) for Advanced Manufacturing, with a specific emphasis on advanced wood products, featuring Cross Laminated Timber (CLT), as a "catalytic project." CLT has the potential to revitalize the wood products industry in our region, and is representative of how Advanced Wood Products presents a global opportunity to grow the region's natural resource-based manufacturing industries through innovation.

The focus of the application leverages research work being done across the PNMP geography, including the University of Oregon. The University of Oregon (UO) and Oregon State University (OSU) are actively collaborating in developing programs that lead the nation in advanced wood products manufacturing and design. The UO has the top ranked sustainable architecture program in the nation and OSU has the premier forestry and wood products programs in North America.

Manufacturing Communities designated through the federal IMCP program will receive preference for a range of future Federal economic development funding and technical assistance from 14 federal agencies, including the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, Department of Education, Department of Labor, the National Science Foundation, and the Small Business Administration.

###