



June 10, 2014

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

The Honorable John McArdle
Mayor, City of Independence
555 S Main Street
Independence, OR 97351

Dear Mayor McArdle:

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Oregon, I congratulate the City of Independence for being named an All America City Finalist; the only city in Oregon so honored this year. This respected award honors communities that are leaders in civic engagement and collaboration, innovators that can demonstrate concrete positive impacts from their programs, and communities that understand the value of inclusiveness in their decision-making.

What better place to represent the values of Oregonians to the nation than Independence, a community founded by pioneers that retains their forward-thinking, problem-solving attitude. Independence. The name says it all.

I understand that Independence is one of the smallest finalist communities this year. That should make the community's accomplishments that much more impressive, as cities much larger would be envious of all that the people of Independence have accomplished in recent years.

Independence is truly a shining example of how collaboration, inclusiveness and civic engagement can create a vibrant, rural community.

To the delegates making the presentation to the selection jury on June 15th in Denver, Colorado, I send my best wishes on your journey and success in your endeavor.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

JAK/sb