



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

La Grande, OR – The City of La Grande is thrilled to welcome PETSENSE to our community! Petsense offers quality pet products at competitive prices, as well as professional pet services to improve the pet's well-being. The City of La Grande's Economic Development department has been working with this company since spring 2017, when it was identified as a good fit for the area by the Buxton Company

In January 2017, the Urban Renewal Agency entered into a contract with the Buxton Company to provide a list of 20 businesses that are interested in expanding in Oregon. Buxton works with more than 3,000 retail clients and more than 700 local governments. Using a proprietary software data system, they analyze characteristics specific to a community and then identify retail businesses that do well in communities with similar characteristics. Based on this information, the City was provided with a list of 20 retailers per year of the project, which would fit with the unique characteristics of our community. Additionally, Buxton makes the initial contact with the company and prepares to customized marketing packages for each business. The La Grande Urban Renewal Agency is in the second year of this project.

Petsense was on the initial list provided to the Urban Renewal Agency in Spring 2017. After working with the business, as well as The Carrington Group, which owns the La Grande Town Center shopping center, La Grande made the short list for expansion in early spring 2018. Highly specific data provided by Buxton Company was crucial to making the cut for expansion. "The Company requested very specific data, that we would not have had access to, without the help from Buxton" said the City's Economic Development Director, Christine Jarski. It took a strong partnership including Buxton, the Carrington Group and the City to help bring Petsense to our area.

Conversations are currently underway with other businesses identified on the list. "We anticipate more growth in our retail sector as a result of the Buxton project" said City Manager, Robert Strope. It is anticipated that Petsense will open in the summer of 2018.
