



MEASURE: HB 3017
EXHIBIT: 6
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
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SUBMITTED BY: REP. BETTY KOMP

February 9, 2011

Representative Betty Komp
900 Court St. NE, H-273
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Importance of Woodburn Enterprise Zone

Dear Representative Komp,

The City of Woodburn was designated as an enterprise zone this past July. This was an important milestone for the City and our partner jurisdictions. Woodburn is economically disadvantaged; our per capita income is below the state's average, while eighty percent of our residents work outside the community. The enterprise zone designation provides important tools for the community to utilize to retain and attract new employers to our community. The City's economic development strategy of creating more local employment opportunities for our residents would suffer a severe setback if the program was discontinued.

Enterprise zones provide special economic tools that communities can use to help existing businesses be successful while attracting new businesses to the community. Recognizing the importance of the program, Woodburn adopted local incentives to further the attractiveness of our program. Local businesses are excited about our Enterprise Zone Program and are evaluating expansion plans to take advantage of it. New businesses are looking at Woodburn because the Enterprise Zone Program is available. Woodburn now has an economic advantage over other communities that do not offer similar incentives, which is something that we did not have in the past.

Statewide, the Enterprise Zone Program has been very successful in assisting existing businesses to be successful. Thousands of jobs have been created as a direct result of the program. Facebook, which recently decided to locate a facility in Prineville, Oregon, is one such example. The Oregonian reported that they would not have chosen to locate in that community had it not been for, among other factors, the Enterprise Zone Program.

We believe enterprise zones:

- Bring added attention and recruitment opportunities to communities offering the program;
- Allow communities experiencing economic hardship a tool toward recovery;