



MEASURE: HB 3017
EXHIBIT: 0
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 2/28/2011 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: CINDY ROBERT

TO: House Committee on Revenue
FROM: Cindy Robert
City of Medford
DATE: February 28, 2011
RE: Support for HB 3017

As a City sponsoring an Urban Enterprise Zone that has benefited from the business development opportunities provided by Oregon's program, the City of Medford urges you to vote "yes" on HB 3017 and continue the program.

Grants Pass, the Illinois Valley, commercially and industrially zoned sites in Josephine County, Medford, White City, Butte Falls, Rogue River, and some rural portions of Jackson County have designated Enterprise Zones. The current Medford Urban Enterprise Zone was designated July of 2008, and is set for termination June of 2018. The Zone was originally created in 1998.

In 2005, Medford ranked fifth on *Inc.* Magazine's 2005 list of "The Top U.S. Cities for Doing Business." What certainly helped us earn that honor is our status as both an enterprise *and* an electronic commerce zone. Medford was one of four Oregon cities to be designated an e-commerce zone in 2002 by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department. The use of both zones allows us to offer income and property tax relief to businesses, helping Medford to grow and then to endure in this difficult economic climate.

To date, 58 companies have taken advantage of our Enterprise Zone and 39 have been approved for E-Commerce benefits. The total private business investments in the Enterprise Zone has been \$121 million, and 1,340 new jobs have been created while 3,887 existing jobs have been retained.

The Enterprise Zone program has been extremely successful in not only assisting with attracting new businesses to Oregon, but also with providing a much needed incentive for existing businesses to remain here, grow their businesses and continue to be solid contributors to the economic health of the region in which they are located as well as to that of the State. With expansions of existing businesses responsible for nearly 80% of job growth in Oregon, the Enterprise Zone program is not only essential, but is vital to our continued efforts to grow ourselves out of our current economic condition.

We urge you to help the City of Medford and other areas in Oregon continue to attract new businesses, to provide motivation for industries to expand and to create jobs by support HB 3017.