



MEASURE: HB 3017  
EXHIBIT: 10  
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE  
DATE: 2/25/2011 PAGES: 2  
SUBMITTED BY: JIM HENDRIX

February 28, 2010

Representative Phil Barnhart, Co-Chair  
Representative Vicki Berger, Co-Chair  
House Committee on Revenue

RE: House Bill 3017

Dear Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Berger,

The City of Woodburn is in support of House Bill 3017, extending the sunset date of the enterprise program until June 30, 2025. Woodburn recently was designated as an enterprise zone in July 2010. 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 and are evaluating expansion plans to take advantage of the program. New businesses are looking at Woodburn because the Enterprise Zone 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.

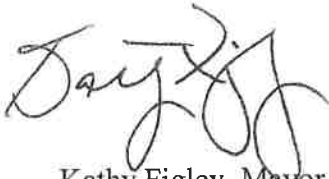
We believe enterprise zones:

- Bring added attention and recruitment opportunities to communities offering the program;

- Allow communities experiencing economic hardship a tool toward recovery;
- Increase city and county tax bases as new investments return to the tax rolls after the short abatement period; and
- Demonstrate that the communities offering the program are serious about economic growth.

In closing, the City of Woodburn supports extending the sunset date for the enterprise zone program until June 30, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Figley', written in a cursive style.

Kathy Figley, Mayor  
City of Woodburn, Oregon

Cc: Ann Hanus, Association of Oregon Counties  
Michael Novak, League of Oregon Cities  
Jack Isselman, Oregon Economic Development Association