



Commissioner Diane McKeel
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

District 4

MEASURE: HB 3017
EXHIBIT: 8
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 4/28/2011 PAGES: 2
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Testimony to House Judiciary Committee regarding HB 3017

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you. I speak to you today both as a Multnomah County Commissioner and also the chair of the Association of Oregon Counties Community Development Committee. I am here to speak in favor of HB3017 and the extension of the sunset date for the Oregon enterprise zone program.

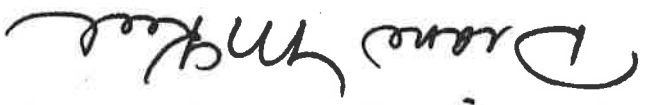
Enterprise zones are one of the most effective tools that local governments in our state use to attract and retain businesses in our communities. They create valuable development projects – and unlike some tools such as Urban Renewal Districts – have clear start and end dates that give businesses the incentive and motivation to improve and expand their trades.

Multnomah County has three urban enterprise zones: the North/Northeast Portland, Gresham, and Columbia Cascade enterprise zones - comprised of Fairview, Wood Village, and Troutdale, totaling 7,556, 1,690, and 1,731 acres, respectively. The diversity of the businesses taking advantage of these zones in Multnomah County varies from a \$66,441 abatement for 500LB Marketing Solutions, a web development firm, to \$1.0 million for Solexant, a solar manufacturing facility, and \$4.3 million for the United Parcel Service (UPS). They vary in size and type of business, but they are all of great value to our county. When these businesses commit to hiring workers and working with the community to expand their production, local governments are able to ultimately gain more money, and the companies are rewarded with a tax exemption. In Gresham alone, enterprise zones have helped stimulate \$220 million in new equipment and buildings, allowed retention of 185 jobs, and created more than 500 new ones.

I have no doubt that these zones have played significant parts in cultivating the businesses and economic development of my County. Unlike many rural counties which administer the zones themselves, all three of the enterprise zones in Multnomah County are managed by the cities. While our taxes are abated too, and we do not have direct administration of the zones, I have no doubt that Multnomah County significantly benefits from these zones and the revenue and development that they create.

Enterprise Zones are unquestionably one of the greatest tools that counties and local governments in Oregon have to develop business, and their continuation is vital. I urge you to extend the sunset of these programs, and to vote yes on HB3017.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Diane McKeel