



City of Gresham

City of Gresham
Office of Governance & Management
Government Relations

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Testimony in support of HB 3017 and HB 3494

To: Chair Barnhart and members of the House Revenue Committee

From: Ron Papsdorf, Government Relations Manager

The Enterprise Zone program has been an important local tool for business recruitment and retention in Gresham and other communities throughout Oregon. It is a local tool that abates local property taxes for a 3 to 5 year period, resulting in job retention and creation that brings income tax revenue to the State.

The Gresham Enterprise Zone was established in March 2006 as a tool to encourage capital investment and family-wage job creation within Gresham's industrial areas.

In its first 4 years, the Gresham Enterprise Zone has been used as a retention tool for five existing Gresham companies to support their local expansion. We also use the Enterprise Zone as a recruitment tool when working with leads and prospects looking at Gresham as a potential location for new facilities. This tool often keeps Gresham sites on the short list, helping us compete with other states across the United States.

From 2006 through 2010, Gresham awarded Enterprise Zone benefits to companies resulting in over **\$200 million of capital investment**, the creation of over **500 new jobs** and over **180 retained jobs**.

We encourage you to extend the sunset of the Enterprise Zone program. Keeping this tool in our local toolbox is critical to helping existing companies expand and encouraging new companies to locate in Oregon.