



MEASURE: HB 3494
EXHIBIT: 2
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 2/25/2011 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: JON STARR

February 25, 2011

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 143
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 3494

House Committee on Revenue,

On behalf of Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), I am writing in support House Bill 3494 which effectively extends the sunset date of Oregon's Enterprise Zone Program to June, 30th, 2023.

The Enterprise Zone Program in the City of Redmond has been established since 1988 and has effectively helped 122 companies create 1700 jobs and over \$127,000,000 million in capital investment. Without this program many of these projects would not have happened. Oregon's Enterprise Zone program allows us—as an economic development organization focusing on recruiting new traded-sector firms to the Redmond area—to compete at the national level against other states offering significant cash incentives. When T-Mobile was evaluating our community for a new 600 employee site, the Redmond Enterprise Zone played a significant role in balancing their financial investment. The company now employs 850 people.

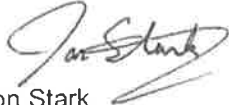
The program also allows expanding companies to use their capital to create new jobs and develop new products in years where it's critical to keep other expenses down. MEDISS, a single-use medical device re-processor, has been assisted by the Enterprise Zone program twice, to Redmond's advantage. Once to relocate and expand to Redmond and recently to expand their existing facility by more than 12,000 square feet, allowing the company to double their existing workforce to 150.

While there have been other successful programs in the past, the task of diversifying and strengthening our economic base remains challenging, particularly in light of the current economic environment. We believe continuation of the Enterprise Zone is vital to the economy for Redmond as well as the entire state of Oregon.

Redmond Economic Development, Inc. has been involved in business expansion, relocation, and retention in Central Oregon for over 20 years. We are made up of a twenty-three member board of directors strongly engaged in our mission of "Creating Prosperity through Community and Business Development." Our support of HB 3494, is not one of personal gain; however, if we are to be successful in growing Oregon's economy, retaining Oregon's Enterprise Zone Program is essential to our economic development efforts as we put the recession in the past.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our perspective. Please feel free to contact me if need additional information regarding our support in the review of HB 3494.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Stark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end.

Jon Stark
Manager