

HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



DAVID MERIWETHER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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KAREN JOPLIN - DISTRICT NO. 1
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February 22, 2011

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

RE: HB 3017 Enterprise Zone Program

Dear Co-Chairs Barnhart and Berger:

We are writing to express our support for HB 3017 which extends the sunset date of the enterprise zone program. The Enterprise Zone program has been proven to create jobs, expand wealth, and enhance long-term property tax revenue with a payback of about seven years.

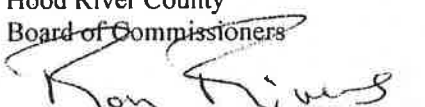
Enterprise zone programs include the tried and true incentive of the standard property tax exemption of 3-5 years, the long-term facility incentives for special rural opportunities, the electronic-commerce tax credit available in several zones, and special Tribal/reservation designations.

Enterprise Zones are sponsored by local governments (city, county, tribe or port) and serve as a focal point for local development efforts by exempting eligible traded sector businesses from local property taxes on investments in *new* plants and equipment for three to five years in a standard zone and up to 15 years in a rural zone in exchange for agreeing to locate or expand new plants and equipment. One hundred seven cities in 35 counties currently use enterprise zones to create better economic opportunities. Oregon's 59 (47 rural and 12 urban) enterprise zones offer a unique economic development tool for Oregon counties to encourage businesses to grow or locate in Oregon.

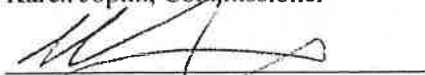
The enterprise zone program is scheduled to sunset in 2012, we urge you to support the passage of HB 3017 allowing for an extension of the program from 2013 to 2025.


Sincerely,

Hood River County
Board of Commissioners


Ron Rivers, Chair


Karen Joplin, Commissioner


Maui Meyer, Commissioner


Bob Benton, Commissioner


Les Perkins, Commissioner

MEASURE: HB 3017
EXHIBIT: Y
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 2/28/2011 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: RON RIVERS

A Small County with a big mission:
Providing Quality of Life for all.