



Testimony before the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
May 18, 2011

In Support of House Bill 3017

Thank you Co-chair Barnhart, Co-chair Berger and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Betty Komp, I represent House District 22, which includes the cities of Woodburn and Gervais, as well as NE Salem.

Before you today is House Bill 3017, which would extend the sunset for Oregon's Enterprise Zone program to the year 2025. Members, all of us have felt the impacts of the global recession. Some of our districts have been particularly hard hit, and require as much investment as they can possibly get. My hometown of Woodburn is economically disadvantaged even in good times, having a per capita income that is lower than the state average.

This is why we need to continue Enterprise Zones here in our state. Not only do these zones provide important tools for cities and communities to use in retaining and attracting new employers, they can help *existing* businesses be successful as well.

The City of Salem was recently not only able to retain the business of Garmin Manufacturing, saving 157 jobs; this business was also able to upgrade their local facility, adding 67 new jobs. Prineville and Ontario in Eastern Oregon were able to attract the internet company Facebook to their communities, bringing a minimum of 35 full time jobs with them.

Colleagues, this may not seem like a lot, but in this economy, it is. Now more than ever, every job matters and every job has the potential to impact Oregon's standard of living.

I submit to you a letter from the City of Woodburn, telling their story of what these important zones mean to their economic development. I'm also submitting a letter from the Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities, outlining what good this program does to communities around the state.

When considering this issue, I would keep in mind the importance of helping all Oregonians, especially in these tough economic times. Thank you.