

CITY OF DALLAS  
Written Testimony in Support of  
HB 3017 A  
May 18, 2011

MEASURE: HB 3017A  
EXHIBIT: m  
Senate Finance and Revenue 76<sup>th</sup> Session  
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SUBMITTED BY: Jason Locke  
Submitted not heard

Dear Chair Burdick, members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, and Committee Staff

My name is Jason Locke. I am the Director of Community Development for the City of Dallas. The City of Dallas is the Zone Manager for the Dallas/Independence/Monmouth Enterprise Zone. The City of Dallas, together with Polk County and the cities of Independence and Monmouth, are urging the passage of HB 3017A.

In these difficult economic times, it is critical for local governments to have a full complement of tools to attract new businesses, as well as to maintain and expand existing businesses. The Enterprise Zone is an important tool in that toolbox, as evidenced by the results in Polk County. Some of the businesses that have or are currently taking advantage of the Enterprise Zone tax abatement include the Dallas Best Western, Medallion Cabinets, Forest River, EVCOR, Marquis Spas, National Hose Testing and MAK Metals, who together employ more than 500 people in our Polk County communities.

As you know, the Enterprise Zone allows the abatement of property taxes on capital investments for qualifying businesses for 3 years, with a potential for an additional 2 years. The zone sponsors have chosen to forgo the property tax revenue in the short term in order to reap long term economic gains including jobs and capital investment, both of which are a net positive for the community.

The revenue impacts on the state are also a net positive, as the jobs created are subject to state income and payroll taxes. There is no economic or revenue downside for the state.

In conclusion, we are asking that the committee forward HB 3107A to a full Senate vote with a "do pass" recommendation in order to extend the benefits the Enterprise Zone system provides.

Thank you.