

MEASURE: HB 3017
EXHIBIT: 6
Senate Finance and Revenue 76th Session
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SUBMITTED BY: Sandra Messerle
submitted not heard

May 18, 2011

Senator Ginny Burdick
Oregon State Senate
Salem, Oregon

Dear Senator Burdick,

The Board of Directors of the South Coast Development Council, Inc., serving the people of Coos, Curry and Western Douglas Counties, we are writing to urge Senate passage of HB 3017, extending the sunset dates for Oregon's enterprise zones from 2013 to 2025.

In our area, the existence of the enterprise zone and the long-term rural facility abatement it provided, was a major opportunity for Oregon Resources Corporation to utilize much needed cash-flow at the front end of their mining operation in Coos County for the construction of their \$45 million dollar processing plant, and their over \$90 million dollar investment in the south coast region. As you are aware, these opportunities have not been a part of our economy in over three decades. This company provided, in exchange, over 50 family wage jobs, all at the required wage, and much above typical for this area. Additionally, they have proven themselves responsible, caring employers in every way, with outstanding benefits attached to each of these jobs.

While many understand the need for the enterprise zones as a competitive business recruitment tool for the state of Oregon, they are perhaps less recognized as the business expansion tool that they are. In the state of Oregon, and certainly here on the South Coast, we have companies that could take advantage of new markets and opportunities, but due to lack of expansion and financing, are unable or reluctant to take that big step of expansion. For further development of businesses that have already made their home here, many for decades, the incentive of the enterprise zones is critical to helping them take the steps that lead to a broader market reach and the creation of new jobs.

As economic development professionals, financial institutions, government representatives, educators, utility partners and more – and on behalf of the region we serve -- we present this testimony for your hearing on this bill, Wednesday, May 18th.

Thank-you, Senator Burdick, for all you and your colleagues do to help us strive for a brighter economic future for the people of the South Coast.

If we may be of further support, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Sandra Geiser-Messerle at 541-297-1220. Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Sandra Geiser-Messerle

Sandra Messerle
Executive Director



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