

MEASURE: HB 3017
EXHIBIT: T
Senate Finance and Revenue 76th Session

DATE: 05-18-2011 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: John Pascone

Submitted not heard



To: Oregon Legislative assembly

Date: May 15, 2011

From: John Pascone, President
Albany-Millersburg Economic Development Corp.

Re: HB 3017
Enterprise Zones – Reauthorization

I am a supporter of the Enterprise Zone Program and urge you to re-authorize this valuable program. In many cases the incentives provided by the Enterprise Zone Program is the only tool and resource many communities have at their disposal.

This state already has a reputation of not being business friendly and we have a lot of work to do to turn this poor reputation around.

Eliminating the Enterprise Zone Program will not only be bad for Oregon but it will send business the wrong message; we are NOT open for business!

I have been working in the field of Business and Economic Development for over 25 years in Oregon. I have been Enterprise Zone manager or co-manager for three enterprise zones in Linn County for the past 14 years.

Our basic economic development strategy is retention and expansion of local business and recruiting, when the opportunity comes up, which is not very often in this economy. Even in good economic times, these large projects are few and far between.

Enterprise Zones support expansions for local businesses and are a crucial tool for recruiting out of state projects. In our Linn County zones, more existing local businesses have benefited from Enterprise Zone benefits than outsiders.

I can tell you that at least three of Linn County's biggest projects would not have come to Oregon were it not for the Enterprise Zone. They are the Target Distribution Center, The Lowe's Distribution Center and the PepsiCo Gatorade plant (which never was completed but the city was paid \$20 million for our effort). For two smaller projects; First Consumers National Bank and Signal NW, the enterprise zone was an important reason for their locating in Albany.

When I am preparing proposals for multi-state site searches the questionnaire about incentives is a full page of various incentives listed by type of incentive and the dollar value to the company. I can usually fill out one line item on the whole page: Enterprise Zone! It's all Oregon has to offer.

The basic incentive is designed to lower a projects cost for the companies in exchange for the investment made in our communities.

Please pass this important bill.