



MEASURE: HB 3017  
EXHIBIT: E  
Senate Finance and Revenue 76<sup>th</sup> Session  
DATE: 05-18-2011 PAGES: 2  
SUBMITTED BY: Jon Stark

May 16, 2011

Hon. Ginny Burdick, Chair  
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: Support of HB 3017-A**

Dear Senator Burdick,

On behalf of Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), I am writing in support of House Bill 3017-A which extends the sunset of the Enterprise Zone program in Oregon.

The Enterprise Zone program in the City of Redmond has been established since 1988 and has effectively helped 122 companies create 1,700 jobs and over \$127,000,000 in capital investment. Without this program many of these projects may not have happened. Oregon's Enterprise Zone program allows us (an economic development organization focusing on recruiting new traded-sector firms to the Redmond area) to compete against other states offering significant cash incentives. The program also allows expanding companies to offset some of their project costs, which can often lead to an expedited hiring process.

First approved by the Legislature back in 1985, the program has undergone numerous changes over the years; however it has remained essentially the same useful incentive. The program assists companies in the early years of expansion or development when it's critical to keep overhead costs low. It can often make a large scale investments pencil for projects in certain industries, while in others it can often tip the scale in our direction when companies are evaluating future sites.

The task of diversifying and strengthening our economic base remains challenging, particularly given the current economic environment. We believe the Oregon Enterprise Zone plays a vital role in not only Redmond's economy, but the entire State's. Passage of HB 3017-A will tell the existing and future companies in Oregon that "We are open for business".

REDI has been involved in business expansion, relocation, and retention in Central Oregon for over 20 years. We are made up of a twenty-one member board of directors strongly engaged in our mission of "Creating prosperity through community and business development." We appreciate this opportunity to share our perspective. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information regarding our opposition of HB 3017-A.

Respectfully,

  
Jon Stark  
Manager



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