



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR CENTRAL OREGON

Prineville/Crook County

Joint Committee on Tax Credits
HR A
State Capitol
Salem OR 97301

MEASURE: HB 3173
EXHIBIT: J
Joint Committee on Tax Credits 76th Session
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SUBMITTED BY: Jason Carr

Co-Chair Senator Burdick
Co-Chair Rep. Bailey
Co-Chair Rep. Berger and Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Credits:

As the Economic Development Manager for Prineville and Crook County, I'm writing to express my support for (HB 3173), which extends the Long-term Enterprise Zone Facility Tax Credit. Prineville and Crook County have benefited greatly by having the ability to utilize the long-term enterprise zone in Oregon. This tax incentive played an important role in the community's ability to attract facebook to Prineville.

Since January of 2010, facebook has spent over \$200-million in capital investments, and created over 1,300 construction jobs. This activity has had a profound impact on our community, as many local hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and hardware stores have seen a significant increase in business. (There are also 24 full-time workers hired so far.) Just last week, facebook released \$110,000 in community donations to help local non-profits and our school district.

Economic Development for Central Oregon is currently in talks with facebook about the use of these tax credits. EDCO also believes this tax credit provides us with another tool in recruiting other technology companies that we believe are likely to follow facebook to this region. The tax credit is aimed at large rural projects with investments greater than \$25 million and compensating workers at least 50% above the average county wage.

We understand that the credit must receive approval from the Governor before it can be used, and therefore it will be limited to those specific circumstances that will allow Oregon to stay in the running for major investments in rural enterprise zones.

Again, I urge your support for HB 3173.

Jason Carr

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