



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOR CENTRAL OREGON

May 6, 2011

Representative Joules Bailey, Co-Chair, Joint Tax Credit Committee
Representative Vicki Berger, Co-Chair, Joint Tax Credit Committee
Oregon Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Rep. Bailey and Rep. Berger:

I am writing to encourage your **support of SB317a**, which would extend the sunset provision of the E-Commerce Tax Credit beyond its current termination date of June 30, 2013. The e-commerce program has played a critical role in recent capital investments that are creating new, badly needed jobs in our region.

While e-commerce zones are a relatively new (less than two years) economic development tool in the Central Oregon area, they have been very beneficial in helping to attract jobs in this emerging sector, which is definitely of interest for our region for economic diversification. Thus far, the combined investments of qualifying companies within the Bend and Redmond e-commerce zones total more than \$23 million and have resulted in nearly 100 well-paying full-time permanent jobs. Given the job losses Central Oregon has seen during the recession, these traded-sector jobs and the economic activity created by the investments has been a huge boon for our local economy.

Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), a non-profit organization serving the region's economic development needs for the past 30 years, would very much like to continue to grow our e-commerce companies and have the ability to recruit new employers in the sector to our area. The e-commerce zone program and the tax credits on eligible capital investments that it provides is an effective economic development tool that has the ability to attract jobs and tax revenue to Oregon.

Please support the extension of the E-Commerce Tax Credit benefit as proposed in Senate Bill 317a.

Respectfully,

Roger J. Lee
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Chris Telfer
Senator Doug Whitsett
Jack Isselmann, Tonkon Corp. (on behalf of Oregon Econ. Development Assoc.)
Ann Hanus, Association of Oregon Counties

MEASURE: SB 317

EXHIBIT: J

Joint Committee on Tax Credits 76th Session

DATE: 05/24/2011 PAGES: 2

SUBMITTED BY: Roger Lee

Submitted not heard

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