

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Atkinson, Burdick, Edwards, Girod, Starr, Beyer
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Richard Berger, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/10, 4/4, 4/21

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes local governments in Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties to develop regional economic development plans to designate and maintain high-value employment sites planned and zoned for the development of employment opportunities. Exempts high-value employment sites from access management and mobility standards. Requires Department of Land Conservation and Development to adopt rules to implement this section. Requires regional economic opportunity plans to provide for extensive public outreach. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Regional cooperation between central Oregon governments
- Need to diversify employment in central Oregon to reduce dependence on tourism and housing construction
- Large amount of property with industrial potential in Redmond constrained by planning rules

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Dictates that only local governments in Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties may plan and designate high-value employment sites. Requires Department of Land Conservation and Development to adopt rules to implement this section. Requires regional economic opportunity plans to provide for extensive public outreach. Removes stipulation that regional economic development plans may only be developed by two or more local governments representing contiguous counties and a majority of the cities in the participating counties.

**BACKGROUND:** Central Oregon currently has unemployment rates around 13 percent while the state average is around 10 percent. The March 2011 unemployment statistics released by the Oregon Employment Department show Crook County as having the highest unemployment rate in the state at 15.4 percent.