



**Oregon State
Building and Construction Trades Council**
AFL-CIO



February 8, 2012

The Honorable Phil Barnhart
The Honorable Vicki Berger
Co-Chairs
Oregon House Revenue Committee
Room 143
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support HB 4067 - Data Centers in Enterprise Zones

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this written testimony today. As you know, the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council is very concerned with Oregon's business climate and we work every day to improve it on behalf of our members. Oregon has enjoyed the very successful development of several data centers over the last few years, bringing billions of investment into Oregon and creating thousands of construction jobs. We are continuing to see interest from more internet-based companies in building data centers in Oregon all the time. Clearly Oregon has become a leading candidate in the nation to create an industry cluster in such high-tech facilities. We need to do everything we can to support this growing investment in our state.

Recently, there has been uncertainty in this industry regarding exactly what the state's tax policy is toward data centers. This uncertainty is creating doubt in the private sector's mind on whether or not Oregon is the right place to locate such facilities. The legislation before you today seeks to clarify the state's tax policy and assure data centers that Oregon is the right place to locate and create jobs. This certainty is needed now, not in 2013, to assure that the marketplace can make decisions today to move forward with investments in Oregon. If we wait, we will be passed by.

The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council has enjoyed a good working relationship with those companies who have built data centers in Oregon and we expect to have our members employed by the future construction of data centers across Oregon. This bill not only fixes the immediate problem of tax policy, it sends a larger signal to the world the Oregon is open for business.

We strongly encourage you to pass HB 4067.

Regards,

John Mohlis
Executive Secretary