



SB 1586
Oregon Investment Act
February 20, 2012

The Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities support the overall purpose of HB 4040: encouraging business investment and increasing resources to local governments and state agencies to advance economic development efforts.

A high priority for counties and cities is the need for additional resources, tools, and flexibility to encourage economic growth and jobs. We support a coordinated and collaborative partnership for economic development and recognize the need for adequate resources.

Local governments play an important role in economic development by providing tax incentives and local resources for businesses, building infrastructure, giving technical assistance, and permitting projects.

Since partnerships among the state, local governments, businesses and economic development entities are critical for successful economic development, we recognize the need to be flexible and work in concert. We urge that when the Governor and Legislature make appointments to the Oregon Growth Board, at least one of the appointees should have local government experience and economic development expertise.

We understand that the Oregon Growth Board, through a written agreement, would be able to contract with local governments and local economic development entities to manage resources to achieve the goals of this bill. This would enable, for example, economic development districts and local governments working with Regional Solutions Boards to provide funding to encourage business investment and job creation/retention.

We recognize that this bill is written broadly to allow for flexibility by the Oregon Growth Board. We encourage the Treasurer's Office and the Oregon Business Development Department, together with stakeholders, to outline clearly the roles and responsibilities of each agency, the Oregon Growth Board, and the Oregon Business Development Commission, in order to minimize conflicts and emphasize cooperation and collaboration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we look forward to strengthening our efforts to encourage economic growth and jobs in Oregon through HB 4040.

Contacts:

Ann Hanus, Association of Oregon Counties (503) 871-9764

Chris Fick, League of Oregon Cities (443) 564-3402

Jack Isselmann, Oregon Economic Development Association (503) 806-1104