



March 3, 2015

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

To; Representative Barnhart and Committee Members

RE: Opposition to HB 2672, 2084, and 2098. Relating to Changes to the Strategic Investment Program

The Oregon Economic Development Association would like to express our opposition to the House Bills 2672, 2084 and 2098 as these reduce economic development tools available for our communities. As these bills are written they each serve to diminish the effectiveness of the State's valuable Strategic Investment Program (SIP) and harm future recruitment and expansions of traded sector businesses. It is these traded sector investments which ultimately support our state and the communities we live in. The proposed changes to the SIP in these bills will cause more harm than benefit both to the program and to the schools they are intended to help.

The SIP is a valuable economic development tool which provides benefit across the state. Currently 8 counties have used this tool to support new jobs and investment in their community. This is a statewide tool which provides great opportunity for high tech firms, suppliers as well as other capital intensive, globally competitive firms to invest in Oregon. Competition to recruit and retain these industries is fierce at a national and global level. The changes suggested in these bills would limit our ability to compete to grow the jobs of tomorrow in Oregon.

The SIP has proven effective to recruit and grow new investment and new jobs in the state. With investments made in this program across the state jobs have been added and significant new capital brought online. In Washington County alone, the two SIP recipients provide employment for over 17,000 high wage jobs, directly supporting both the school districts and the community they are a part of.

The changes to the SIP sought in House Bills 2672, 2084 and 2098 will hurt Oregon's ability to recruit and retain businesses. It is the growth and addition of these businesses which will provide funding for our schools. We believe that the impacts of these bills will negatively impact funding for schools as well as our communities directly.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Freeman".

Chad Freeman