

TO: Ways & Means, Transportation & Economic Development Subcommittee  
Sen. Betsy Johnson, co-chair  
Rep. David Gombert, co-chair  
Sen. Bill Hansell  
Sen. Rod Monroe  
Rep. Mike Nearman  
Rep. Tobias Read  
Rep. Gail Whitsett  
Rep. Brad Witt

FROM: Sean Robbins, Business Oregon director

RE: Business Expansion Program

DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2015

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We talked last week about the Business Expansion Program (BEP), and I wanted to share a little more background. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

- BEP is a sister program to the Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF) but with more strict requirements: The company must have at least 150 employees and be adding 50 or more employees who make 150% of the average state or county wage – whichever is less – for at least two years
- The 2011 Legislature created BEP in SB219, which allowed a transfer of up to \$4 million from the SRF to the BEP. BEP shares SRF funds. So any money transferred to BEP reduces the amount available for SRF awards.
- The 2013 Legislature removed the \$4 million cap on transfers.
- We transferred the full \$4 million to BEP in the 2011-13 biennium and \$416,620 in the 2013-15 biennium
- We now only transfer funds to BEP when we are ready to disburse funds to a project