



The Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) opposes the -1 Amendments to HB 2616 and the potential it creates of eroding existing economic development tools.

OEDA is a statewide non-profit organization working to support economic development professionals who are on Oregon's front line in diversifying and expanding Oregon's economy. OEDA's membership includes a mix of public and private entities from economic development corporations, cities, utilities and other stakeholders interested in attracting investment here in Oregon.

Our members work every day to leverage existing economic development tools and lure growth and investment in Oregon. The investors we work with have many options for deploying capital. Often Oregon is competing with sites in other states or abroad for this investment and the resulting job growth. Any changes in the costs for an investor who is accessing these economic tools can tip the scales in deciding to expand in Oregon or elsewhere.

In general, OEDA supports career technical education (CTE), but shifting the burden of workforce development from the state general fund to private developers on a per-contract or per-project basis sets a risky precedent for funding important state initiatives. Further, including private projects that access economic development incentives as "public contracts" in order to find additional funding sources for CTE is both instable and risky.

HB 2616 and the -1 Amendment would consider any contract that receives abatement from an economic development fund a "public contract" (See Section 3(2)). This creates a model that could hamstring our current economic development tools and lays a foundation for bringing private projects into the public realm, adding additional costs and mandates to potential projects with no guarantee that those projects will go forward. This offsets the benefits of the incentives and creates additional costs, which may factor in an investor's decision whether to accept an incentive here in Oregon or spend money on construction, development and growth elsewhere. We ask that you seriously consider the economic development ramifications of creating such a model.

OEDA supports CTE. We believe that Oregon needs to prioritize training a skilled workforce that can design, build, and operate the industries of our future. We believe that HB 2616 is a misplaced attempt at achieving that goal, and that the -1 Amendment is over-reaching in its attempt to define "public contracts" and target economic development incentives. Please protect our existing tools and oppose the  
-1 Amendment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Garrison", written in a cursive style.

Sarah Garrison  
President