



Apr. 24, 2015

Honorable Phil Barnhart, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: House Bill 2643 Streamlines Enterprise Zone process and removes cap number of Zones

Dear Chair Barnhart and Members of the Revenue Committee:

I am writing to express the City of Beaverton's support of House Bill 2643. This bill would significantly streamline the work of local jurisdictions by not having to go through the arduous application processes of boundary changes and adding economic development tools such as electronic commerce to existing zones in the future.

This bill will help Beaverton, and other local jurisdictions, by:

- Streamlining the overall application process for local jurisdictions to implement these state economic development tools which helps cities focus on the needs of businesses in their communities.
- As well as, making the state economic development tools more accessible to local jurisdictions levels the playing field within the state so that cities are not competing against neighbors, but instead working to bring jobs, talent and new infrastructure to the region as a whole—an overall benefit to the state.

Two years after applying for Enterprise Zone, Beaverton successfully applied for the E-Commerce overlay and was awarded the overlay in July 2014. Within two months the city had its first E-Commerce applicant and the city is now working with a second. These two tools alone have been invaluable to the city with new investment of more than \$9 million, creation of 14 new jobs, and retention of more than 240 employees since 2013.

The city urges you to move this bill forward and continue to support this valuable economic development tool. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alma Flores', written in a cursive style.

Alma Flores
Economic Development Manager