



May 2, 2017

Chair Barnhart, & Members of the
House Revenue Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Barnhart & Members of the House Revenue Committee:

The Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) represents all 23 public ports in the State of Oregon. Our membership is diverse both in size and in geography. Members stretch from the Southern Coast at the Port of Brookings Harbor, north to the Port of Astoria and then east approximately 190 river miles along the Columbia River to the Port of Umatilla. Together, Oregon's public ports employ directly, indirectly and induce over 101,300 jobs in our state generating nearly \$600 million annually in state and local taxes. The OPPA would like to express its support for HB 2904.

The Long-term Rural Enterprise Zone has been a valuable tool for our members and has proven to be a catalyst in attracting new businesses and investments for Oregon ports. The property tax incentives authorized under this program apply to a wide array of businesses provided they make a minimum level of investment and create jobs exceeding a minimum level of annual compensation.

However, due in part to the success of this program, some areas that have traditionally been eligible to offer the benefits of this program may no longer be able to do so. Specifically, due to strong wage growth and lower unemployment levels areas like in and around the Port of Morrow may no longer qualify to use this valuable program.

HB 2904 seeks to address this problem by creating new eligibility criterion that an area can continue to qualify for the program in order to extend long term rural enterprise facility tax abatements in areas outside of metropolitan areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Greenwood". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kevin Greenwood
President
Oregon Public Ports Association