



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR CENTRAL OREGON

Prineville/Crook County

May 17, 2011

Hon. Ginny Burdick, Chair
Senate Revenue & Finance Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3017-A

Dear Senator Burdick,

I'm writing on behalf of Prineville Economic Development to express my support of HB 3017-A, which would extend Oregon's Enterprise program.

Prineville and Crook County's Enterprise Zone has been in place since 2003. Since that time, the program has assisted 14 companies by creating 119 jobs, retaining 145 jobs, and leading to \$212,937,106 in new capital investment.

Facebook is the most recent and high-profile example of a recruitment project made possible by the Enterprise Zone program. While the community had several important assets in place to serve the data center (including close proximity to transmission lines, sewer & water infrastructure, and fiber access), the Enterprise Zone gave Prineville a competitive edge during the recruiting process.

Facebook has put Prineville on the map and our community continues to field interest from other data center companies. Access to the Enterprise Zone will play a pivotal role in our efforts to grow this cluster, provide more jobs and investment in the community.

The program is also effective in our efforts to retain existing companies and create more jobs. 10 of the 14 companies that have utilized the zone are local, and the program has helped offset the cost of expansion and equipment purchases.

Crook County suffers from a 16% unemployment rate, which is the highest in the state. The Enterprise Zone program is essential in our efforts to grow and expand the economy. I fully support the passage of HB 3017-A, and believe it sends a message that Oregon is open for business.

Respectfully,

Jason Carr
Prineville Economic Development
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Prineville, OR 97754

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