

April 4, 2023

House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oppose HB 3011

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

OEDA is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the service and support of Oregon's economic development practitioners on the front lines of diversifying and expanding Oregon's economy. Our association represents members and stakeholders from more than 180 public and private entities from economic development corporations, cities, counties, ports, utilities, tribes, and many other organizations interested in attracting and retaining investment here in Oregon.

HB 3011 aims to enact limitations on current local tax abatement programs. These incentives have been an essential tool to bring businesses and jobs to Oregon, bolstering rural economies and bringing vital opportunities to the state. Property tax exemptions and other tax abatements are among Oregon's best tools for expanding investment in our local communities, particularly in economically distressed areas. These programs provide certainty as our members and local governments look to add valuable manufacturing and other long-term jobs that raise local wages and create a ripple effect through our communities in greatest need.

While we are currently in the fight to keep Oregon competitive, OEDA is hesitant about the possibility of eliminating or restricting any of these incentives, regardless of what sector or industry they would benefit. Reducing or restricting our incentives don't protect local governments or our tax base, they decrease the leverage our members have to secure the best deal, whether through cash up front from recipients or other infrastructure funding or community benefits in lieu of the property tax payments.

We urge this legislation to not move HB 3011 forward and instead sit down with industry partners to discuss concerns and implications that this bill would have. As an organization who works diligently to service and support Oregon's economy— we cannot support HB 3011 in its current state, but would encourage a workgroup to find a solution that could bring transparency while also benefitting both sides of this issue.

Thank you,



Caitlyn Quwenikov  
Executive Director, Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA)