



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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House Passes Key Job Creation and Economic Development Bill

SB 766 will lead to the designation up to 15 regionally significant industrial areas

SALEM – The House today passed one of the key job creation and economic development measures of the 2011 session. SB 766 will lead to the designation of up to fifteen regionally significant industrial areas. That designation will allow for streamlined permitting and reviews of proposed development in those areas.

“This bill balances the elements of Oregon’s unique planning process with our economic development needs,” said Representative Brian Clem (D-Salem), a chief sponsor of the bill. “As we recover from the recession we need to keep our foot on the gas. This bill is an important part of that effort.”

SB 766 assures that proposed industrial projects with the greatest jobs potential are able to get fast and definitive determinations for required state and local land use approvals. Public process and input regarding both the projects of state significance and in the regionally-significant industrial areas will follow regular notice and hearing processes, including a local hearing on the project. No existing standards may be waived through this legislation. Once a decision is made, the procedures for appeals are streamlined.

“There are lands in Eugene, Junction City and around Oregon that are ripe for job creation,” said Representative Val Hoyle (D-West Eugene/Junction City). “This bill will take the leash off proposed projects so that we can grow our economy now.”

SB 766 was developed in part during interim hearings in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The bill is supported by a broad coalition, including the Association of Oregon Industries, the Oregon Business Association, and 1000 Friends of Oregon.

The bill now goes to the Governor’s desk for his possible signature.

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