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Third time is not the charm: another job-creating solution dies in Senate

SB 476 would empower local communities to meet the land use needs of potential employers

Salem, OR – Senate Republicans again offered the opportunity for action on jobs legislation Tuesday morning. Republicans moved to bring Senate Bill 476 out of committee, which would allow local governments to fast-track land use changes if new jobs were at stake. The motion was again rejected on a party line vote.

“More than 200,000 unemployed Oregonians continue to wait for leadership from this legislature,” said Senator Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). “This bill, like several others proposed by Senate Republicans, would tear down one of the road blocks to business and job growth in this state. Yet it and other bills continue to languish in committee. Where is the vision for the long term success of Oregon families?”

Senate Bill 476 would empower local communities to meet the land use needs of businesses looking to locate in Oregon. Potential Oregon employers are often forced to look at other states because of the lack of industrial land and the daunting regulation and paperwork involved with authorizing new land. Senate Bill 476 would allow local governments to suspend the bureaucratic red tape and costly paperwork surrounding the land use process when an employer offers ten or more family wage jobs.

“In order to put Oregon back on the path to prosperity, we must develop a stable of competitive locations that a business can quickly begin developing,” said Ferrioli. “Oregon currently can’t compete with other states. The time and cost of finding buildable land in Oregon is simply too high. This bill would give local communities that power over their own economic destiny, and make Oregon a state attractive to big employers.”

Making land quickly available for high wage jobs is one of the initiatives of the Oregon Business Plan. The Oregon Business Plan recognizes that the best “shovel ready” industrial land has been used. When large potential employers come to Oregon looking for a place to locate, they are forced to look elsewhere thanks to the lack of industrial land supply.

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