

Economic Development Incentives

I. Oppose attempts to sunset or eliminate necessary economic development incentives that are designed to create jobs and attract/retain businesses in Oklahoma in order to remain competitive with other states.

1. SB 1323 – Mazzei – CO – Sunsets the five-year ad valorem exemption for wind power generators, effective January 1, 2011.

2. SB 1797 – Shulz – CO – Repeals the five-year ad valorem exemption for manufacturers.

3. HB 2617 – Proctor – CO – Clawback. Requires industries that receive certain state incentives that subsequently relocate outside the country with respect to the activity for which the incentive(s) was granted to repay the amount plus a 4.5 percent penalty.

II. Extend the number of months to 24 months on the job creation and total sales thresholds to make Small Quality Jobs more applicable to small businesses.

1. SB 1966 – Justice – CS – Amends the Small Employer Quality Jobs Incentive Act to allow for 24 months, rather than 12 months, for qualifying businesses to employ a required number of employees.

III. Support strengthening the criteria required for accessing Quality Investment Funds.

1. HB 3288 – McNeil – CS – Tightens up the definition of “at risk establishments” and makes other amendments to make the Quality Investment Act usable.

Transportation

OEDC opposes any attempts to delay/unravel the transportation and bond program passed in 2008, as well as legislation or constitutional initiatives that would re-direct funds from essential state functions, and erode the legislature’s ability to craft a reasonable balanced budget.

1. SB 1773 – Brogdon -- CO – Requires legislative approval for the issuance of turnpike revenue bonds and toll changes.

2. SB 1941 – Marlatt – CS – Creates the “Innovative Funding for Oklahoma Roads Task Force” to study and evaluate innovations, technologies and new methods being used nationally to fund road and bridge infrastructure.

Water/Wind

I. Establish a Renewable Energy Standard for Oklahoma

1. HB 1622 – Myers – CS – Encourages electric energy providers, located in or otherwise providing retail electric service to Oklahoma consumers to utilize renewable electric energy and achieve a **goal** of 15 percent of load capacity in this state by 2015 and 20 percent by 2020. Allows counting of existing renewable energy capacity toward these goals.

Closing Fund

We have not been able to identify a workable solution on a method for re-implementing the closing fund (opportunity fund).

Research and Technology

We are working with leadership to maintain the current year’s appropriation for OCAST; however most agencies have been told to anticipate a budget cut. No legislation regarding the Research Equipment fund was filed due to the budget deficit.

HB 3036 – Reynolds – CO – would repeal the Economic Development Generating Excellence (EDGE) Fund and return the existing endowment funds to the general fund.

HB 3092 – Reynolds – CO – Disqualifies a broad range of individuals from multiple tax credits not described in the bill but cited in statutory references.

Education and Workforce Development Measures
Conforming with OEDC Legislative Agenda
February 16, 2010

HB 2627 – Jones / HB 2753 – Denney / CS – Oklahoma Charter Schools Act (expanding Charter schools statewide)

HB 2836 – Sears – CS – Teacher pay-for-performance

HB 3254 – Blackwell – CS – Common school de-regulation

SB 1333 – Ford – CS – Enhances Career Tech courses that qualify for college credit

SB 1862 – Coffee – CS – Charter Schools Act

SB 1922 – Newberry – CS – Tax credits to employers for donating to scholarship granting organizations

SB 1926 – Newberry – CS – Tax credits to employers paying for employee continuing education

SB 2032 – Coffee – CS – Teacher incentive pay plan

SB 2139 – Ford – CS – Requires common education secondary school districts to develop graduation rate targets

SB 2218 – Stanislawski – CS – Task Force on streamlining common education administration

SB 2330 – Ford – CS – Common education de-regulation

