

# Oregon leaders hopeful new legislation will bring needed jobs to state

Three significant bills of the 2003 Session that promote new Oregon jobs were announced by State Rep. Patti Smith (R-Corbett), who led the House Trade and Economic Development committee.

"The focus of this committee is to create and retain jobs for Oregonians," Smith said.

The committee first passed HB 2691, co-sponsored by Rep. Patti Smith and Sen. Rick Metzger (D-Welches), which allows cities or counties to rezone or redevelop abandoned or diminished mill sites for industrial use without taking exception to land-use planning goals.

"HB 2691 affects more than 160 mill sites around Oregon," Smith said. "Although not all former mill sites are appropriate for redevelopment, this legislation will help in a number of rural Oregon communities where these mill sites

are the only industrial land available."

Specifically, HB 2691 will give vital assistance to Hood River County as it partners with Cardinal Glass to redevelop the Lower Hanel Mill site at Odell.

"HB 2691 brings us closer to providing the 50 to 75 jobs promised by Cardinal Glass."

The committee also passed HB 2298. This bill was introduced at the request of the House Special Task Force on Jobs and the Economy, chaired by Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner). It originally was introduced during the 2001 Session by Rep. Tom Butler (R-Ontario). It modifies the requirements that business firms need to meet to qualify for the small city business development income tax exemption in order to make the program available to smaller businesses and more communities that are among

the most struggling in our state.

The final economic development bill the committee passed was HB 2671, introduced by Rep. Bill Garrard (R-Klamath Falls) and Sen. Steve Harper (R-Klamath Falls). This bill modifies the requirements for eligibility for long-term, non-urban enterprise zone tax incentives.

The goal of this bill is to assist Klamath County with the siting of a new generation facility to be constructed by Peoples Energy Resource Corp.

"Each of these bills has a company behind it that is ready, willing and excited to put Oregonians to work," said Rep. Patti Smith. "Whether a company uses these new laws to create five jobs or 50 jobs, each job created will be important to an Oregon family."



Try not to become a man of success but rather a man of value.

- Albert Einstein -

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