

Agenda Item Number 10 B.

Cascades West Economic Development District Letter Opposing Rule Changes

Presenter: Steve Dignam

Action Recommended: Authorize the Chair to sign the attached letter

Background:

The Cascades West Economic Development District covers Lane, Benton, Lincoln and Linn counties. The district serves as a means to organize a discussion with the federal government concerning economic development projects and issues. The district develops a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region (this is currently being revised). Participation in the District also allows LCOG to offer an EDA Revolving Loan Fund, and to receive EDA funds for such projects as the business cluster support program just developing in Lane County.

The National Association of Development Organizations has put out a warning about proposed rule changes at the national level. According to NADO “The Economic Development Administration (EDA) published interim final rules that make significant policy and programmatic changes to the planning program for Economic Development Districts. The rules, published on August 11 in the *Federal Register*, are intended to implement changes made by the 2004 reauthorization act (P.L. 108-373).”

“The interim final rule would significantly alter and threaten the long-standing and proven practices of the nation's 320 Economic Development Districts (EDDs). The new rules disregard the bipartisan compromise negotiated by Congress, the senior political leadership of EDA and NADO during the reauthorization process last year. While the reauthorization bill retained (and in some cases enhanced) the core mission, duties and responsibilities of EDDs, the new rules would radically change their governance structure, operational authority and prospects for future funding assistance from the agency.”

NADO strongly recommends that all entities involved in an EDD send a letter such as is attached to Washington D.C. The comment deadline is October 11. More information can be found at http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=20441683&message_id=120519&user_id=NADO