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In the Loop

To: CEDC Board of Directors, CEDC Members and Interested Parties

From: Ted Sprague, CEDC President

Date: 10/30/09

CEDC BOARD VOTES TO OPPOSE INITIATIVE 1033

The Cowlitz Economic Development Council Board of Directors recently voted in opposition to Initiative 1033.

The CEDC typically does not involve itself publicly in political battles, but this issue could have a dramatic effect on economic development. Currently, our success is based on job creation and retention and the capital investment expansions and relocations bring. By arbitrarily establishing a formula for limiting tax revenues the incentive for our municipalities to provide infrastructure to business will disappear and it is not difficult to predict that significant impact fees and special taxing districts could follow. The public's demand for public services e.g. police and fire protection do not diminish in a recession, but tax collection is at historically low levels. This would be our new baseline.

We have a difficult time as it is competing with other states for above average wage employers, add impact fees to the mix, a weakened quality of life and less reliable public infrastructure and we will be out of the running.

The Board of the CEDC is all for efficient, smart and well run government. This initiative is poor public policy for moving our state forward and further creating family wage jobs and having a quality education system that can support a skilled work force.

There was a lot of discussion and debate that went on regarding this decision, but in the end the Board decided to oppose.



October 30, 2009

LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE WINS GOVERNOR’S BEST PRACTICES AWARD

I recently returned from the Annual Workforce and Economic Conference held in Spokane where the Governor announces her best practices awards for the State of Washington. Out of a list of several outstanding projects across the state, Lower Columbia College received the award for their innovative nursing education project.

In 2006, Ferry County Hospital issued a call to “any college or university” in Washington to help with the critical shortage of licensed nurses in rural and remote areas. Lower Columbia College responded to the challenge and now provides the e-learning courses. In January of 2009, the first class of students was admitted at hospitals and health care centers throughout the state.

By recruiting within their community and providing the training on-site, rural communities can now grow their own nursing staffs. Several other states have contacted Lower Columbia College about the project in the hopes of replicating it.

Congratulations to the leadership and staff at Lower Columbia College. It is this type of innovative thinking and risk taking that will lead our community to better days ahead.

In the past two years, the Governor has given out ten best practice awards for projects from all across the state. We in Cowlitz County have been awarded three of the ten. Last year we won an award for the integration of workforce and economic development with our staffing approach between CEDC and the Workforce Development Council. In addition, last year the Mint Farm Development Project won an award for its joint venture between the City of Longview and Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Development Company.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT - - 2010 BEST GUESS - - CO-SPONSORED BY CEDC AND THE KELSO/LONGVIEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Please join CEDC and Chamber Members for an evening meeting on December 2nd from 5pm to 7pm at the Cowlitz Expo Center, the cost is \$30. We have invited experts and leaders representing several different areas of the economy to share their thoughts and vision for the future. Knowledge is power and by attending, you will gain a wealth of information to help you plan for 2010 and beyond.

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We are changing up the format for this year's event with more room for Q&A and interaction from the audience, we think you will be pleased with the new format.

Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling the Chamber of Commerce 360.423.8400.

WASHINGTON TECHNOLOGY CENTER OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Washington Technology Center (WTC) is a statewide economic development organization focused on technology and innovation. WTC channels state, federal, and private resources to help companies develop and commercialize new products and technologies.

Washington Technology Center is home to the Microfabrication Laboratory, the Pacific Northwest's largest public-access user facility. This 15,000-square-foot lab provides companies and university researchers access to facilities and specialized equipment for MEMS (microelectromechanical systems) research and product/process development. The lab is a critical research and development facility for primary-stage product development and product manufacturing.

WTC's Microfabrication Laboratory Access Program is one of three funding programs available at WTC. The lab access program awards eligible small companies in Washington with short-term, no cost access to sophisticated and expensive microfabrication equipment critical to advancing specific research and development. Lab access award projects that are funded by WTC will need to show clear potential for economic impact and a well-defined work plan. As the program is focused on companies who have an immediate need for laboratory facilities, lab access awards are limited to a maximum of three consecutive months of Microfabrication Laboratory use.

Proposals to WTC may be submitted by a company that has research, engineering, or manufacturing facilities within Washington state. The types of projects and areas of interest the WTC will accept are proposals from companies in any technical area or industry that can utilize the lab.

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Lab access projects should focus on a limited type of technical need. Types of projects include but are not limited to: proof of concept, prototyping, testing, process development, and small-scale production. The lab access program is designed to fulfill very specific needs through use of the WTC lab equipment and/or process support.

The following are some of the Microfabrication Laboratory's equipment and process capabilities:

Clean Room Class: The majority of the lab is clean-room space that is certified class 10,000.

Wafer Materials & Sizes: The lab is suited for 100mm diameter substrates, primarily silicon. The lab currently has several users that also work with glass, compound semiconductor, and silicon-on-insulator (SOI) substrates.

Start to Finish Processing: The lab has the equipment suite to go from blank substrates to finished products.

To learn more about the WTC and how you may access its programs, please follow this link http://www.watechcenter.org/downloads/microfab_lab_grant_program_final.pdf

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