

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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State board invests \$3.3 million in economic development projects

Funds will create jobs and stimulate local economies in Asotin, Klickitat, Lincoln and Yakima counties

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) today announced \$3.3 million in public investments targeting job creation and business growth in Asotin, Klickitat, Lincoln and Yakima counties.

“Strategic infrastructure investments like these help strengthen the partnership between business and government, leading to job creation and economic development,” said Gov. Chris Gregoire. “These projects will benefit rural communities in Washington at a time when it is needed most.”

Since 1982, CERB has committed more than \$144 million to counties across the state, an investment generating nearly 36,000 jobs. The board approved the following projects at today’s meeting:

- Asotin County - \$1 million in loans and grants to the Port of Clarkston for infrastructure for Phase I of an industrial park. As a result of this project, 55 jobs are expected to be created. The project will allow the port to provide shovel-ready parcels in the industrial park.
- Klickitat County - \$25,000 grant to the City of Goldendale for a study to determine the feasibility of constructing and managing a publicly-owned incubator in support of growing alternative energy producing wind farms, vineyards and wineries, and other businesses. CERB funds are matched by \$16,000 in local funds.
- Lincoln County - \$2 million in loans and grants to the Odessa Public Development Authority for infrastructure at the Barr Regional Bio-Industrial Park to accommodate the building and utility needs of a manufacturing plant for biochemicals made from organic agricultural waste. As a result of the project, 71.5 jobs are expected to be created. CERB funds are matched by \$200,000 in local funds.
- Yakima County - \$275,000 loan to the Port of Sunnyside for infrastructure construction in the Midvale Rail Industrial Park providing access and infrastructure for the relocation of an existing business from downtown Sunnyside. The project would also provide access to two, 2-acre site-ready lots in the park. As a result of this project, 5.3 jobs are expected to be created. The project is matched by \$275,000 in local funds.

“Tools like CERB help Washington businesses succeed, supporting jobs and helping our state stay competitive even during tough economic times,” said Rogers Weed, director of the Washington State Department of Commerce. “CERB’s dedication to helping communities around Washington is vital to our state’s economy.”

As Washington’s strategic economic development resource, CERB is focused on creating private sector jobs in partnership with local governments by financing infrastructure improvements. These improvements encourage new business development and expansion. In addition to funding construction projects, CERB provides limited funding for studies that evaluate high-priority economic development projects. Learn more about CERB at www.commerce.wa.gov/cerb

The release of CERB funds to these projects is contingent upon each applicant completing specific pre-contract requirements, such as finalizing other funding sources and obtaining necessary permits.

CERB receives management services from the Washington State Department of Commerce. For more information on the Department of Commerce, visit www.commerce.wa.gov

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