



Marion County

OREGON

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Autumn, 2008

Dear Business Owner/Manager,

We want to hear from you! In these difficult and uncertain times, we know you are facing tremendous challenges and we want county government to be able to better serve you. The Marion County Economic Development Advisory Board is charged with making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on matters related to economic development. We know the county can play a more supportive role for our business community and we believe the current economic challenges demand that we find ways to cut bureaucratic red tape and eliminate unnecessary road blocks.

The information you provide will help us understand your challenges and needs as we put together our strategic plan and make recommendations for the new year. We are committed to working with you to build stable businesses, a healthy economy and strong communities.

We encourage you to complete the survey and return it to us as soon as possible. Go to the end of the survey for directions on how and where to return the survey. When the information is compiled we will be sharing it with you and the community together with our recommendations. If you have any questions, please call Dan Estes at the Board of Commissioners' office at 503-588-5212.

On behalf of the Marion County Economic Development Advisory Board, thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti".

Patti Milne
Marion County Commissioner

**Marion County Economic Development Survey
Autumn, 2008**

What size is your business (under 5 employees, under 10, under 20, etc.)? _____

What kind of business do you have? _____

How many years have you been in business? _____

Are you the owner or manager? _____

Who makes day-to-day operational decisions? _____

How many branches or other site locations does your business have? _____

Where are the others located? _____

What is your largest business expense (payroll, marketing, raw materials, taxes, transportation, etc.)? _____

What is most effective in marketing your business (print, radio, TV, internet, signage, word of mouth?) _____

How much of your business is done online, by phone or via a website? _____

Has new technology emerged in your field that you have not been able to take advantage of? _____

Why or why not? _____

If you could add new technology, would it replace staff, increase output, improve quality, decrease production time, or improve your personal efficiency? _____

How much competition do you have in the local/regional market place? _____

What affect does competition have on your business? _____

Is employee retention an issue for you? _____

Do you have a good pool of applicants when hiring? _____ Why or why not? _____

How long does it take to train an employee to be efficient and productive in your business? _____

Do you actively promote a drug-free work place with pre-employment drug screening and/or regular or random testing? _____

What stumbling blocks are there to your business' success, and/or what factors affect your business that are beyond your control? _____

Do you need assistance with workforce training? _____ Do you employ youth workers? _____

Where are the majority of your customers located? _____

Where are a majority of your suppliers located? _____

What layers of government do you deal with in running your business (permits, licensing, inspections, audits, etc.)? _____

Does your city provide the necessary infrastructure for the growth of your business (sewer, water, roads, power, cable, fiber optics, etc.)? _____

Is your local, county or state government helpful or a hindrance in running, expanding and/or improving your business? _____ Why or why not? _____

What effect would more or less government regulation have on your business? _____

Additional comments and feedback _____

Your Name _____

Your Business _____

Business Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

Please check here if you'd like your responses kept anonymous _____ or confidential _____

We know your time is valuable and appreciate your participation in this survey. You may return the survey by mailing it to Patti Milne, P.O. Box 14500, Salem, OR 97309, or by going to the county website at www.co.marion.or.us to complete it.

Thank you!

Commissioner Patti Milne
Marion County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 14500
Salem, OR 97309

RETURN TO:

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HERE

Marion County Economic Development Advisory Board Goals

1. To provide the Board of Commissioners with balanced and comprehensive advice on economic development issues within Marion County.
2. To analyze, upon request, various county policies and practices that have an impact upon businesses and economic development within Marion County.
3. To provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on the disbursement of video lottery funds to create and retain jobs, and directly and indirectly strengthen and diversify the county's economic base.

For more information about the Marion County
Economic Development Advisory Board, please call
Patti Milne at 503-588-5212 or email at pmilne@co.marion.or.us