

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WEBFILINGS LLC WITH LOCAL MATCH IN THE FORM INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

BACKGROUND:

WebFilings is a privately held Los Altos, California and Ames, Iowa-based company, that offers financial and regulatory reporting solutions. WebFilings has software development and sales and marketing support operations located in the ISU Research Park. The company has been rapidly expanding operations in Ames. Webfilings has applied for economic development assistance from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) with a local match provided by the City of Ames in the form of our existing Industrial Property Tax Abatement program.

The project will include building expansion and associated computer equipment and furniture and fixtures. Total investment expected for the project is over \$32 million, including a \$1,200,000 loan from IEDA and High Quality Job Program tax credits. This project is an expansion beyond the building currently under construction and is expected to create an additional 135 jobs. The local assistance from the City is limited to the currently existing Industrial Property Tax Abatement Program that would be available to the business for qualified improvements even if not used as a match to IEDA assistance.

IEDA will review Webfilings application for assistance later this month. For the IEDA to continue consideration of this project, the City Council must adopt a resolution supporting the submittal of the Webfilings application for IEDA assistance.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt a resolution supporting the submittal of an application from Webfilings, LLC requesting economic development assistance from IEDA with local match to be provided in the form of Industrial Property Tax abatement.
2. Do not adopt a resolution of support for Webfilings application.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Webfiling is a rapidly growing software company in Ames that is making a significant investment of capital to expand high paying jobs without the cost of additional City

infrastructure. In keeping with the Council's goal to promote economic development, this project will expand the number of quality jobs within our city.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, adopting a resolution supporting the submittal of an application from Webfilings, LLC requesting economic development assistance from IEDA with local match to be provided in the form of Industrial Property Tax abatement.