

KCEDA

Klamath County Economic Development Association

To: Oregon Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: **Letter of Support for SB 1084**

Dear Co-Chairs Meek and Nathanson,

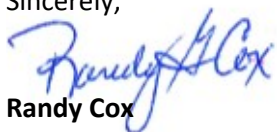
I am writing on behalf of the Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA) to endorse SB 1084. KCEDA is the area's lead economic development agency, focused on being a proactive force in business recruitment, retention, expansion, and scalable entrepreneurship. In the work we do, we strive to catalyze a flourishing economic climate, where local organizations and businesses have the best opportunities to be successful. As we seek to diversify and enhance the components of our economy, it is critical that our rural region have access to tools to remain competitive in our development efforts. SB 1084 possesses tools of which our organization utilizes frequently and have been instrumental to generating substantial economic momentum in the county over recent years.

KCEDA supports SB 1084 for the following reasons:

- The bill restores tax credits for research and development. This will create new commercialized products helping grow the economy and will support the semiconductor industry, a priority established by the Governor's office and this Legislature.
- It extends the sunset of the Enterprise Zone program, one of the most effective tools our state must compete for projects and provides local communities the opportunity to invest in job-creating companies with temporary property tax exemptions in their jurisdictions.
- It extends the Long-Term Enterprise Zone, which helps large projects, particularly given the rising cost of materials and financing.
- It extends the Oregon Industrial Site Readiness program. Southern Oregon has a significant inventory of larger industrially zoned properties, many requiring utility and transportation infrastructure. To compete with other states for private sector investment, private developers and businesses cannot be expected to shoulder the cost of these improvements entirely. This program helps share a portion of the cost burden between local community infrastructure improvement investments and state funds derived from income tax revenues produced by new development taking place on these properties.

KCEDA believes this bill is a way to retain and restore high value economic development tools that will help grow and expand traded sector industries, creating prosperity and a more sustainable Oregon economy. Please join KCEDA in supporting SB 1084. I thank you for your thorough consideration of this legislation, and if you have any questions regarding my comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Randy Cox

CEO, KCEDA / ChooseKlamath