



411 SW Ninth
Redmond, OR 97756

CITY OF REDMOND
Office of the Mayor

February 21, 2023

Oregon State Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Letter of Support – Extending Sunsets for Oregon Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement Program, presently in HB 2199.

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature:

On behalf of the Redmond City Council, I'm writing to encourage your support for critical bills which provide tools and encourage investment in traded sector businesses and industrial lands. Specifically, House Bill 2199 (HB2199).

E-Zones are one of the best tools Oregon, particularly rural areas in Oregon, have for attracting traded sector investment and increasing our job base by offering limited duration property tax abatements on new capital investment. Since it was first enacted in 1985, the E-Zone has a positive record of success. The program has a demonstrated ability to create jobs, expand wealth, and enhance long-term property tax revenue. For Redmond, a city of nearly 40,000 people, we began using the E-Zone tool in 1988. Since that time we have assisted more than 154 companies, created more than 3400 jobs and leveraged nearly \$165 million in private investment.

Redmond is among Oregon's fastest growing cities, and one where housing prices are escalating at a pace far greater than wages, we need tools such as the E-Zone to attract traded sector companies which have family wage jobs.

Extending the E-Zone sunset date now also allows CHIPS Act applicants to include the program in applications, which demonstrates Oregon's support of increasing the state's competitiveness in the semiconductor space.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Fitch".

Ed Fitch
Mayor
Redmond, Oregon