



February 22, 2023

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Oregon State Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Letter of Support Extending Sunsets (HB2060, HB2061, HB2199, SB134, SB135) for Oregon Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement Program

Dear House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

Redmond Economic Development Inc. (REDI) strongly supports extending the sunsets for the Oregon Enterprise Zone program and encouraging investment in traded sector businesses and industrial lands (currently HB2060, HB2061, HB2199, SB134, SB135). This program is the most effective economic development incentive we have that promotes traded-sector business growth in Oregon. REDI has helped many companies in Central Oregon leverage this program to create well-paying jobs by providing a temporary tax abatement during critical operational growth periods.

REDI is a 501c6 private, non-profit organization serving the Redmond community with a mission to create prosperity through community and business development. REDI manages the Greater Redmond Enterprise Zone including the City of Redmond, City of Sisters and Deschutes County as zone sponsors.

The City of Redmond, a city of nearly 40,000 people, began using the Enterprise Zone tool in 1988. Since that time more than 154 companies have created over 3400 jobs and leveraged nearly \$165 million in private investment. We need tools such as the Enterprise Zone to attract traded sector companies which have family wage jobs.

A 2022 study commissioned by Business Oregon measured the return on investment from 287 companies who have participated in the Enterprise Zone program by looking at total output through direct jobs at participating firms, indirect jobs from suppliers and induced jobs from employee household spending in the community. Remarkably, the study found that the economic benefit was 29 times the initial investment (temporary exempted tax value) for the standard 3 to 5-year Enterprise Zone program.

It is imperative to Oregon's overall economic advantage to maintain the Enterprise Zone program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Curley, Director
Redmond Economic Development, Inc.