COURTNEY NERON STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 2663

February 23, 2023

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Morgan, Vice Chair D.Nguyen, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

For the record, I am Courtney Neron, State Representative for House District 26, testifying in support of <u>HB 2663</u> which **reauthorizes and funds the <u>Business Oregon</u> Regionally Significant Industrial Sites (RSIS) Program**.

The Regionally Specific Industrial Sites (RSIS) program is an important tool to help identify and **build infrastructure to make these employment lands possible**. The program incentivizes industrial development by providing state income-tax reimbursements to local governments so that they can prepare a site to attract industrial development and jobs. **Eligible expenses include planning, engineering, construction and fees for site preparation, sinking utilities, roads and sidewalks, cleanup of brownfields, and financing**.

Oregon's industrial and manufacturing industry is a catalyst for economic growth, and a significant provider of family-wage jobs. HB 2663 extends the RSIS Oregon Industrial Site Readiness Program for 10 years and allocates \$50 million to the fund. These investments will create positive ripple effects in Oregon's economic health and **grow strong job opportunities for the future**.

As the Chair of the House Education Committee, I know our economic health is connected to our education investment possibilities, and as an advocate for adequate funding I see the critical benefits of programs like RSIS not only on **job opportunities and community stability**, but also on the increased revenue generated by these projects. In short, an extended and funded **RSIS will support our families, students, and education system** better than the best bake sale or school auction ever could.

RSIS provides tools to local governments and federally recognized tribes and **helps Oregon maintain competitiveness with other states**. I want to thank the cities of <u>Wilsonville</u> and Sherwood for their collaboration, leadership, and support with regards to HB 2663. I encourage the committee to review the **testimony** of <u>Mayor Fitzgerald of</u> <u>Wilsonville</u> and <u>Mayor Rosener of Sherwood</u> who understand the positive impact that this bill could have on increasing employment lands in our region and all across our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, I urge your support for HB 2663.

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Rep Courtney Neron Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood, Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain