



February 28, 2023

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Chair Janelle Bynum
Oregon Street Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Bynum and Committee members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,150 members and 8,500 business in Central Oregon, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2199: extending the sunset date of enterprise zone programs.

The Chamber strongly supports the extension of the state's primary enterprise zone program, to 2032, as called for in HB 2199. The program is one of the most important tools in the economic development toolkit and a key differentiator when attracting traded sector employers to Central Oregon. Alongside our partners at Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), we have seen the enterprise program leveraged to benefit our region by creating well-paying jobs and generating significant revenue.

Recent data from our EDCO partner demonstrates the impact of the program with 74 traded sector companies with active enterprise zone authorizations creating 1,049 jobs and over \$1.6 billion in capital investment. The impact of these numbers to our business community is significant and long-lasting. Central Oregon is among the state's fastest growing areas on a variety of measures, and the enterprise zone program is a key driver of that growth.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill, and we urge a yes vote to continue the state's enterprise zone program.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks", written in a cursive style.

Katy Brooks
President & CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

Creating an environment where businesses, their employees and our community excel together through collaboration, advocacy, resources and leadership to meet Bend's business challenges.