

February 27, 2023

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support for HB 2199

The City of Lincoln City supports extending the sunsets of the State's Enterprise Zone Program.

Extending the program will allow the City of Lincoln City to leverage this potentially powerful economic development tool to draw new investments to our region and help retain and expand existing operations. Enterprise Zones (EZs) are sponsored by Lincoln County and are administered through the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC), which the City relies on to serve as the Zone Manager. EZs serve as one of the only tools we have to attract economic growth and high paying jobs.

In Lincoln City the Enterprise Zone program has the ability to serve as an additional incentive to:

- Attract companies to locate or expand in the Enterprise Zone
- Invest in Lincoln City community benefits including new infrastructure, local organizations that have received funding, etc.
 - E.g. a new fire truck, a utility line extension, housing development
- Create new jobs
- Leverage funding for private investments

Lincoln City is currently drafting a new Urban Renewal Plan for which a key focus will be job production apart from tourism, the City's main economic driver. Continuance of the Enterprise Zone Program could further support adding new jobs to the area.

The City could also benefit from having more streamlined access to the "Lodging Rider" of the Enterprise Zone Program due to the potential of job producing new lodging businesses developing at the coast.

In alignment with the [recommendations](#) from the Semiconductor Task Force, passing the extension of this program early on will help send a strong signal that the State of Oregon is ready to support economic growth from the semiconductor industry, and also to continue to provide one more tool in the economic toolbox for rural, coastal economies.

Sincerely,



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