



POLK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioners
CRAIG A. POPE
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GREGORY P. HANSEN
Administrative Officer

March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke, Vice Chair Walters, and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

On behalf of Polk County, we are writing in support of HB 2199. Enterprise zones serve as major economic development tools, and at the local level have proven an effective way to attract new business investments and create jobs by offering a means of lowering the initial cost of investment.

Polk County has had a slower start to attracting new industry over the past years due to proximity of Polk County to the interstate and has tried to encourage the use of any tools available. We have seen some success with enterprise zones and that they are often a motivator for site locators.

HB 2199 extends enterprise zones for 10 years. Counties use enterprise zones to attract and retain businesses and ultimately grow their tax base when the incentives expire. AOC has long-supported enterprise zones as a tried-and-true economic development tool that allows local governments to use their own property tax revenue to spur job creation. Currently, 30 of Oregon's 36 counties are enterprise zone sponsors.

We appreciate your consideration and urge passage of this important legislation.

Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Board Chair

Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst

Commissioner Craig Pope