

February 23, 2023

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

Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express the City of Gresham’s support for HB 2199.

Communities with Enterprise Zone programs are able to help companies make major investments and reinvestment in their facilities, helping both attract them to communities in Oregon and to keep them here.

Over the past 17 years, the Gresham Enterprise Zone program has been used by nearly 30 companies, in varying industries. The program has been used to support the recruitment of companies to the city including Lightbox Jewelry, who constructed a \$94 million lab grown diamond manufacturing facility in Gresham. The facility has brought over 60 new family wage jobs to the city.

The program has also been used to support ongoing investments at many of Gresham’s largest employers including Microchip Technology, ON Semiconductor, Boeing and Teeny Foods. These companies provide great examples of manufacturers that work closely with K-12 and community college partners to provide employment opportunities to East Multnomah County residents and ongoing training for existing employees to support growth potential and career pathways.

Overall, the Gresham Enterprise Zone program has supported nearly \$1 billion in new investment and the creation of over a thousand family wage jobs. Without extension of the Enterprise Zone program, Gresham would lose an important competitive edge in the economic development arena, and Oregon would lose out on substantial new investment and jobs to communities elsewhere in the nation.

In alignment with the recommendations of the Semiconductor Task Force, passage of this bill early in this legislative session will assist ON Semiconductor, Microchip and other companies in the semiconductor industry to secure federal CHIPS funding through demonstration that the State of Oregon is supportive of maintaining and increasing our competitive advantage in this critical industry through tools like the Enterprise Zone program. I urge your support of HB 2199 to ensure the Enterprise Zone program’s ongoing viability.

Sincerely,



Shannon Stadey
Director of Economic & Development Services
City of Gresham