



February 15, 2003

Oregon State Legislature  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Letter of Support – Extending Sunsets for Oregon Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement Program, presently in SB 134, SB 135, HB 2060, HB 2061 and HB 2199**

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature.

The Redmond Chamber of Commerce would like to join our Economic Development partners, Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) and Redmond Economic Development Inc., (REDI) in strongly supporting Senate Bills 133, 134, 135 and HB 2060, 2061, 2199, which collectively support the extension on the sunset of the Enterprise Zone program. Redmond has utilized this program to generate countless new businesses, strengthen industries and to create thousands of jobs in our community.

Property tax exemptions and other tax abatements are among Oregon's best tools for expanding investment in local communities, particularly in economically distressed areas. Cities, counties, ports, and tribes can offer local tax abatements to encourage new or expanding businesses to invest and create jobs. Redmond has a long proven record of accomplishment in utilizing the Enterprise Zone, and it would be easy to correlate Redmond economic success to this program.

The Enterprise Zone program has helped rural Oregon communities like Redmond grow and diversify their economic base and strengthen Oregon's tax base, and in a state that depends upon income tax as a primary source of revenue, it is vital to have tools to create jobs. The Enterprise Zone program has a proven record of doing just that. We hope you will join us in supporting the extension of this proven, successful and important economic development program.

The proposed Bills in both the Senate and the House this session, to extend the Oregon Enterprise Zone program, are a top priority for EDCO, REDI, and the Redmond Chamber of Commerce. We strongly encourage you to extend the sunsets of the Enterprise Zone Program and support SB 133, 134 and 135.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspectives.

Sincerely,

Eric Sande  
Executive Director  
Redmond Chamber of Commerce