



## **City of North Plains Testimony in Support of SB1526 with Requested Amendments**

Chair Meek and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the City of North Plains, a small city of about 3,500 residents located along U.S. 26 between Portland and the Coast Range. North Plains strongly supports Section 10's RSIS program language reauthorization, as well as requested amendments to extend the RSIS program timeline and to make a modest change to the e-commerce zone statute.

Reauthorization of the RSIS program is critical to achieving the state's economic development goals. It has been used successfully by larger cities – but small cities like North Plains have not been able to use it because the RSIS loan fund has not been capitalized.

Small cities simply do not have the capital for upfront industrial readiness-level infrastructure, and we need the state's help. A separate bill headed to Ways and Means would prime the economic development pump with an appropriation to the RSIS loan fund in this Session if the RSIS program is reauthorized, to send a positive signal to small cities and to businesses considering locating new industrial facilities in them.

North Plains is the only city in the state that is entirely an e-commerce zone – a special type of enterprise zone – by statute; several other cities have e-commerce zones within their borders. No one has been able effectively to use this designation. The amendment requested by North Plains would update the e-commerce statute to add “semiconductor-related development activities,” in alignment with the state's goal to build on its strengths as a hub of semiconductor-related economic development. It would provide a targeted tool for North Plains and some other cities to attract semiconductor ecosystem employers.

We worked closely with Business Oregon to develop our requested amendment language, which we have provided to Chair Meek. Our understanding is that it has no fiscal impact. We respectfully request its inclusion in the planned amendment to SB1526.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Holt

for City of North Plains