



House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Re: HB 4084

Chair Ngyuen, Vice Chairs Isadore and Skarlatos, Members of the Committee,

The League of Oregon Cities and our members stand in support of House Bill 4084. Oregon faces a huge fiscal gap, revenue is down, our economy is slowing and we are facing record job losses. HB 4084 provides cities with modern, practical tools to attract investment, redevelop underutilized industrial land, and support family-wage job creation.

Oregon's enterprise zone (E-zone) program has long been important to local economic development. HB 4084 works to better reflect current economic realities by allowing sponsoring entities, like cities to use economic transition, workforce needs, vacant or underutilized land, and locally adopted development goals, rather than relying solely on rigid income or unemployment thresholds. This approach gives cities the flexibility to plan proactively for growth and recovery based on community-defined priorities rather than a one size fits all approach that doesn't reflect the diversity of cities and communities across Oregon. Additionally, there are changes to E-Zone requirements to allow flexible hiring timelines and alternative performance measures, which will be key in attracting new businesses to Oregon. These changes help cities compete for investments nationally while preserving both local control and accountability.

Finally, the investment of \$40 million in the Industrial Site Loan Fund is key, a critical resource for cities working to prepare development-ready industrial sites. As cities struggle with aging infrastructure and the lack of funds to build new infrastructure, new investment is vital to ensure that cities statewide can thrive.

House Bill 4084 strengthens local decision-making, modernizes economic development tools, and positions Oregon cities to compete effectively for future investment and jobs. We urge an 'aye' vote.