



OREGON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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CHAMPIONS FOR OREGON

March 2, 2026

Re: SUPPORT for HB 4084 (and HB 4084B)

To the Members of the Oregon Legislature:

OEDA is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the service and support of Oregon's economic development practitioners on the front lines of diversifying and expanding Oregon's economy. Our association represents members and stakeholders from more than 180 public and private entities from economic development corporations, cities, counties, ports, utilities, tribes, and many other organizations interested in attracting and retaining investment here in Oregon.

Our organization and members continue to **support HB 4084** since its introduction this session. We thank the Governor, the members of the House Economic Development, Small Business and Trade and the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction and full Joint Committee on Ways & Means for moving this bill forward. The underlying bill includes several components that have long been priorities from OEDA, including:

- **Proposed \$40 Million investment in the Industrial Site Loan Fund;** Building off last year's momentum, growing this program allows more communities to finance infrastructure to offer prospective employers shovel-ready industrial sites.

UPDATED AMENDMENT, Dash-B15, budget allocation, Neutral: We recognize the impact of the B15 amendments is to remove the allocation to another budget bill. We support any new capitalization of the program and **urge a "yes" vote** on the funding vehicles (**SB 5701** providing an additional \$10 million in bonding capacity & **HB 5204** providing \$5 million in general funds).

- **Enterprise Zone Program Improvements:** our most proven economic development incentive tool, the new E-Zone eligibility allowances were suggested by many OEDA members and communities through Business Oregon's 2025 listening sessions. These changes will give flexibility to zone sponsors (cities, counties, and ports) to better retain, grow and recruit new companies by foregoing new property tax revenue in exchange for employment commitments, payments in lieu of taxes and other community benefits.

UPDATED AMENDMENT, Dash-B24, data center moratorium, Opposed; We opposed this amendment and statutory language isolating data centers. Data centers are a key driver of

economic vitality in several rural counties across the state. Further, each E-zone sponsor should have ability to choose how to best bring jobs and investment to their respective communities. Data centers face the same regulatory requirements for land-use, water, environmental permitting and as other industries and investments. Specific to the E-Zone program, data centers must meet the same statutory and local government terms for any tax incentive eligibility. This amendment ignores the existing protections within the E-Zone program, broader regulatory environment, market forces and most of all, sends an additional message about Oregon's willingness to work with various sectors. The -B24 amendment is unnecessary and counterproductive to prosperity efforts. Still, with the incorporation of this amendment by your committee on March 2, 2026, we support HB 4084B as now amended.

- **Joint Permitting and Regulatory Accountability:** We appreciate the Legislature's acknowledgment that the State of Oregon needs to address the inefficiencies and delays in ensuring business can move forward under our regulatory framework. Several sections of HB 4048 look to identify permitting issues and provide new methods to ensure investment can be converted to production on a reliable timeframe.

Given the fast-paced nature of the short Legislative session we recognize decision on HB 4084 have already been made, including the vote on the respective amendments. Still, we urge all Legislators to **vote "yes" on HB 4084B**. This bill is an important step forward to work to build Oregon's trade-exposed economy back towards prosperity.

On behalf of OEDA and its Policy Council, we **urge your support of HB 4084B**.

Sincerely,



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