



May 27, 2015

Dear House Representatives,

I am writing to express Oregon Bioscience Association's support for House Bill 2643.

Enterprise Zones (E-Zones) are important tools for regional economic development to attract, retain and grow local companies and jobs. In the context of Oregon's emerging bioscience industry, many activities are underway to cultivate a thriving crop of next generation bioscience companies across the state, including in Portland Metro, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene and Medford.

Through Business Oregon, the state has been working to "grow our own", an effort to nurture and expand Oregon-based businesses, large and small. The State of Oregon has also taken a leadership role by investing in Signature Research Centers, such as OTRADI and ONAMI, where many of Oregon's innovations in bioscience and microtechnology meet entrepreneurship, company formation, seed investments and new job creation. Over time, several of these startups will evolve into larger companies. As they graduate out of incubators, they continue to face a challenging road to scale up and become self-sustaining. At this stage, neighboring states venture to recruit these companies away with various incentives. Similarly, some of our larger Oregon-based bioscience businesses compete for expansion investment dollars with facilities in other states and countries, where significant local incentives influence economic development.

Local jurisdictions in Oregon need to be prepared for when an E-Zone can be the best tool to retain these Oregon companies. However, today, Oregon's limited number of E-Zones have all been dedicated with demand outstripping supply.

The Oregon Bioscience Association's mission is to cultivate a thriving bioscience ecosystem in Oregon. We look forward to seeing our current and future bioscience companies emerge, grow and prosper with local talent and high-paying jobs. We encourage your support in favor of House Bill 2643.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Smits".

Matt Smits
Chair, Board of Directors
Oregon Bioscience Association

oregonbio.org

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FROM THE DESK OF REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN LIVELY *John Lively*