



March 31st, 2017

House Committee on Revenue
Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair
900 Court Street NE, HR A
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2243, Electronic Commerce Tax Credit Extension

Chair Barnhart and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to urge you to support the bill currently before the legislature, HB 2243, which will extend the Electronic Commerce Tax Credit allowance within designated Oregon Enterprise Zones.

Redmond has had an Electronic Commerce designation for more than a decade. The credit has been a tool used to recruit more than 250 jobs within a half dozen companies here in Redmond. These firms operating in Redmond pay higher than average wages and are known in the community as preferred employers. Letting this important tool sunset in Oregon would diminish the already limited resources we have as economic developers to help companies expand and relocate in Oregon. By passing this bill, other jurisdictions in Oregon would be able to leverage this job creating tool through the expansion of the number of allowable designations.

REDI has been involved in business, workforce and community development in Central Oregon for over 30 years. In addition to our traded sector business recruitment efforts, REDI has provided technical support and resources to many of Redmond's existing employers that account for a large percentage of the community's family wage jobs and taxable investment.

We ask that you support HB 2243, and support its passage in this session. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective. If you have any questions regarding our position on this bill, please don't hesitate calling.

Signature,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jon Stark'.

Jon Stark
Sr. Director
Redmond Economic Development, Inc.