

March 18, 2019

House Committee on Economic Development  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2174 (Relating to urban renewal with -1 amendment)

Chair Lively and Committee Members:

**The Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) urges your support of HB 2174 with the -1 amendment.** The bill preserves urban renewal as an essential tool of economic development while providing meaningful updates to governing statute that increase transparency and accountability.

OEDA is a statewide non-profit organization working to support economic development professionals who are on Oregon's front line in diversifying and expanding Oregon's economy. OEDA's membership includes a mix of economic development organizations, cities, utilities, associations and other public and private partners. OEDA also represents Oregon's urban renewal agencies and is the primary champion for urban renewal in Oregon.

In 2009, House Bill 3056 imposed reforms on the operation of urban renewal. These improvements were negotiated by urban renewal sponsors and overlapping taxing jurisdictions together. An MOU established a postponement of additional deliberation on urban renewal and tax increment financing legislative issues until 2017. In 2017, this group convened again to collaborate on measures to again strengthen urban renewal as a program of mutual benefit to communities and constituent special districts.

This bill would amend the Oregon Revised Statutes (chapter 457) that govern urban renewal to:

1. Ensure annual reporting of each urban renewal area's maximum indebtedness;
2. Clarify thresholds for urban renewal plan amendments;
3. Clarify public notice requirements of new plans and substantial amendments; and
4. Ensure collaboration with taxing jurisdictions when new plans include public buildings or there is a significant change in scope to a public building project in an existing plan.

*(Letter Continues on Page 2)*

There are over 110 urban renewal districts across Oregon using this tool to deliver on local priorities including: affordable housing, infrastructure, job growth and community revitalization. Please support HB 2174 with the -1 amendment because the bill will ensure the enhanced operation of urban renewal in Oregon for years to come --bringing economic benefit to Oregon communities and enhancing property tax revenue overall. If you have any questions or comments regarding our position, please do not hesitate to call OEDA at (541) 623-0064.

Respectfully,

**Kate Porsche**  
*OEDA President*  
*Urban Renewal Committee Chair*  
 Economic Development Manager  
 Corvallis Benton County Economic  
 Development Office  
 Kate.Porsche@corvallisoregon.gov

**Justin Douglas**  
*OEDA Board Member*  
*Urban Renewal Committee Past Chair*  
 Policy, Research & Compliance Manager  
 Prosper Portland  
 DouglasJ@ProsperPortland.us

**Avery Pickard**  
 Executive Director  
 OEDA  
 director@oeda.biz

*Supporting Urban Renewal Committee Member Organizations*

