

May 21, 2019

House Committee on Revenue  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Nathanson and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Oregon Economic Development Association fully supports House Bill 2174. OEDA is Oregon's association for economic development professionals who are on Oregon's front line in diversifying and expanding Oregon's economy. Our members include economic development organizations, cities, ports, utilities, tribes, workforce groups and other public and private partners. OEDA also represents Oregon's urban renewal agencies and is the primary champion for urban renewal in Oregon and its best practices.

The bill before you is the product of collaborative negotiation between special districts, cities, counties and economic development professionals and has been through its relevant policy committee.

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 in good faith collaboration. The resulting 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. As part of our commitment to best practices this bill requires certain public building projects to seek consent from taxing districts. A number of other technical changes are designed to increase transparency and improve the statute overall.

House Bill 2174 preserves urban renewal as an essential tool of economic development while providing meaningful updates to governing statute that increase transparency and accountability. The Oregon Economic Development Association urges your support of House Bill 2174 with the Dash 2 amendment.

Respectfully,

Avery Pickard, Executive Director  
Oregon Economic Development Association

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