

Our Lincoln County Enterprise Zone (EZ) is a critical tool to bringing long-term, family-wage jobs to our rural, coastal region.

Our EZ allows our sponsoring local governmental entities to offer multi-year year property tax abatements to companies who invest in or expand within our zone. Eligibility for the abatement includes certain thresholds for hiring and retaining new workers.

The pandemic, related Executive Orders and restrictions have caused unforeseeable challenges for employers receiving these EZ abatements, especially as it relates to maintaining the required new job levels specified in the initial EZ exemption application.

The Legislature should provide temporary authority to local governments or the local Zone Administrator to temporarily suspend EZ employment requirements where employers can demonstrate to the zone sponsor(s) or zone administrator that workforce curtailments are a result of the public health crisis and correlated economic impacts.

Paul Schuytema, Executive Director
Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County