



February 7, 2021

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
Chair Lively
Vice Chair Cate
Vice Chair Kropf
Members of the Committee

The Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) has reviewed House Bill 2267 relating to lottery disbursements to counties for the purpose of economic development and views the bill positively. As the statewide association for Oregon's economic development community, OEDA recognizes the importance of these funds toward activities that promote economic opportunity. This bill would ensure that the 2.5% of dedicated video lottery proceeds reach counties allowing them to stewarding key investments in local economic development.

HB 2267 fixes a problem, which is that in recent years the formula determining these critical disbursements has been suspended in place of a fixed allotment, causing counties to lose out on over the last several years on over \$5 million in vital funding. When this happens, counties' existing economic development programs and investments become vulnerable and risk losing traction or outright elimination. To address this, HB 2267 offers predictability via an initial fixed allocation, and honors the original legislative intent of 2.5% of net video lottery receipts toward counties. This makes administrative sense and assures counties of the support necessary to continue economic development work during this most critical recovery period to come.

The OEDA network includes over 150 member organizations across the state- cities, counties, ports, utilities, economic development districts, tribal governments and other entities that practice economic development. Our network also includes partners in workforce, entrepreneurship & innovation, business finance and technical assistance providers. Our network represents the experts in Oregon economic development, and we appreciate the opportunity to share what it takes to grow regional economies. We hope you will consider House Bill 2267 favorably.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "APICKARD". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

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