



Ricki Ruiz
State Representative

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Pham & Reschke, & Members of the House Committee on Revenue

Thank you for your continued support to Oregonians during trying times. In my role as State Representative for HD50, I have the honor of serving the great people of the City of Gresham. After hearing from community members, I'd like to express my support of SB1524 and urge you as committee members to expand the Gain Share program with the Strategic Investment Program (SIP).

According to the U.S. Census data, some of Oregon's lowest-income census areas are in Gresham. Disparities among underserved communities were already existent prior to the recent economic downturn, but the pandemic and rising inflation have further exasperated these disparities among Oregon families. Programs such as Gain Share provide local jurisdictions the ability to make targeted and equitable investments in their communities. Economic development incentives such as the Strategic Investment Program (SIP) are an important tool that contributes to Gresham's successful economic development, community revitalization, and job-creation efforts. The SIP program allows the City to compete nationally for a wide range of industries. My district is home to substantial industrial lands, both infill and redevelopment opportunities. The City of Gresham supports efforts to expand state investments and partnerships in site readiness and industrial infrastructure.

Gain Share directs a portion of the new state income tax revenue back to cities and counties when jobs are created from Strategic Investment Program projects. SIP allows local governments to invest by bringing new quality, family-wage jobs by enticing new industries to a community through a limited property tax exemption on large-scale projects. A portion of the new income tax revenues generated by the permanent jobs created by the SIP project is returned to the local jurisdictions through the Gain Share program to support critical local investments. Reauthorizing Gain Share will give those local governments the certainty they need to stay on track for a strong economic rebound post-COVID-19. Our cities and counties need every resource they can get as we work together to focus on a long-term, equitable economic recovery. While you may have heard concerns raised on this bill, it is important to note that those are primarily related to the Strategic Investment Program, which does not sunset, not Gain Share, which does sunset. The proposed legislation this session extends Gain Share by 6-years. SIP can exist absent Gain Share, but Gain Share cannot exist without the SIP program. This legislation does not involve the SIP program. I will submit, for the record, a one-pager with partners who support extending Gain Share by six years. I urge you to review it and support this necessary policy.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricki Ruiz".

Ricki Ruiz
House District 50