



CITY OF BEND

February 22, 2023

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CITY MANAGER

Eric King

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Oregon State Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97031

RE: Letter of Support—Extending Sunsets (SB 134, HB 2060, HB 2199)

Dear House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

The City of Bend supports the extension of the sunset for the Oregon Enterprise Zone Program as proposed in SB 134, HB 2060, and HB2199. This program continues to serve as a fundamental incentive to attract new investment and promote expansion for our growing traded-sector industries.

Since its inception in 2011, over 50 companies, representing \$281 million in total investment have participated in the Bend Enterprise Zone. This investment has added over one-thousand jobs to local payrolls through a transparent process managed under contract by our partners at Economic Development for Central Oregon and reviewed periodically by the Bend City Council. The program has proven beneficial to employers, allows for a straightforward projection of abated revenue, and ensures that participating companies hold up their end of the deal by creating new jobs.

Bend's program includes a locally imposed option allowing companies to receive an additional two-year tax abatement, for a total of five-years, should the average compensation for their employees exceed 150% of the Deschutes County Annual Average Wage. In the past twelve years, 21 companies have pursued the additional two-year abatement adding hundreds of jobs that pay, on average, well above the typical wage in Central Oregon. These new jobs are vital for a region that continues to confront a rising cost of living.

Since the Great Recession, Bend has been a statewide leader in diversifying its economy. Deschutes County's rate of industrial diversification during the 2010's was almost double the rate of the nation based on a 2019 report from the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis. To maintain this momentum in burgeoning industries from bioscience, to outdoor products, to advanced manufacturing we need local tools like the Enterprise Zone Program as we seek to promote economic growth that benefits all residents of Bend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric King". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eric King
City Manager
City of Bend
eking@bendoregon.gov



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Ben Hemson at bhemson@bendoregon.gov or 541-388-5529; Relay Users Dial 7-1-1, and 541-385-6676.