

February 22, 2023

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

President
Erik Andersson

2022-2023
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RE: Letter of Support – Extending Sunsets for Oregon Enterprise Zone Program (HB 2299) & Regionally Significant Industrial Site (RSIS) Readiness Program (HB 2258 and HB 2263)

Chair Bynum and Committee Members:

The Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR) strongly and without hesitation supports extending the Oregon Enterprise Zone program through House Bill 2299 as well as extension and funding for the Regionally Significant Industrial Site (RSIS) Readiness Program through House Bills 2258 and 2263. Extension of these programs will continue to provide the Mid-Willamette Valley region, and our state, a valuable tool with which to attract and retain the traded sector businesses which are so vital to our economy.

SEDCOR is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization, providing economic development services to the Willamette Valley. Our service reaches 34 cities within Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties, plus all unincorporated areas, impacting nearly 550,000 Oregon residents. On behalf of the cities and counties that are the zone sponsors, SEDCOR manages three Enterprise Zones (two rural, one urban) in the region.

The Oregon Enterprise Zone program has proven to be an incredibly effective recruitment tool. In 2022 alone, the program was instrumental in securing SEDCOR recruitment projects which brought more than **\$161 million** in new investment to the region. And for our existing businesses, the Enterprise Zone program provides a resource to foster expansion and innovation. Looking back at the last couple of years, we've leveraged the Enterprise Zone program to allow existing businesses to invest more than **\$23 million** to grow their operations locally.

The bills presented in both the Senate and the House this Legislative Session, which propose to extend programs utilized to support Economic Development work, are a top priority for SEDCOR, the traded sector businesses we support, and the region and communities that we serve. We implore you to consider the demonstrated impact that these programs have had to the economic vitality of our region and our state as you engage in your deliberations.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss how either the Oregon Enterprise Zone program or the RSIS program impact the work we do in the region, please feel free to reach out to me directly. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Erik Andersson, President