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February 23, 2023

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business Oregon State Legislature

## **RE: Support for HB 2199**

The City of La Pine supports extending the sunsets of the enterprise zone program.

Extending the program will allow the City of La Pine to continue to leverage this powerful economic development tool to draw new investments to our region and help retain and expand existing operations. Enterprise zones are sponsored by the local government and serve as one of the only tools we have, to attract economic growth and high paying jobs.

Quicksilver Contracting, a manufacturer of posts and poles for fencing, hop poles, utility poles, material for log furniture and chippings utilized the enterprise zone program when locating in La Pine in 2016. With an employment level of 59, Quicksilver Contracting is one of the largest employers in La Pine.

In the City of La Pine the enterprise zone program has:

- Attracted one company that has located or expanded in the enterprise zone, there are two additional companies considering the program for expansions in 2023. These expansions will result in capital investment of \$1.3 million and the creation of up to ten new jobs.
- Invested in La Pine community benefits including new infrastructure, local organizations that have received funding, etc.
  - The company is an investor in the Sunriver/La Pine Economic Development Program, a program that works with businesses to assist them in making capital investment that results in job creation.
- Created 13 number of jobs.
- Leveraged \$3,044,740 in capital investment.

In alignment with the <u>recommendations</u> from the Semiconductor Task Force, passing the extension of this program early on will help send a strong signal that the state of Oregon is ready to support economic growth from the semiconductor industry.

Sincerely,

Geoff Wullschlager

Jeoffnenst. Warrenbergen

City Manager

City of La Pine

Cc: file