COURTNEY NERON STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 2663

February 23, 2023

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Morgan, Vice Chair D.Nguyen, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

For the record, I am Courtney Neron, State Representative for House District 26, testifying in support of <u>HB 2663</u> which **reauthorizes and funds the <u>Business Oregon</u> Regionally Significant Industrial Sites (RSIS) Program**.

The Regionally Specific Industrial Sites (RSIS) program is an important tool to help identify and **build infrastructure to make these employment lands possible**. The program incentivizes industrial development by providing state income-tax reimbursements to local governments so that they can prepare a site to attract industrial development and jobs. **Eligible expenses include planning, engineering, construction and fees for site preparation, sinking utilities, roads and sidewalks, cleanup of brownfields, and financing**.

Oregon's industrial and manufacturing industry is a catalyst for economic growth, and a significant provider of family-wage jobs. HB 2663 extends the RSIS Oregon Industrial Site Readiness Program for 10 years and allocates \$50 million to the fund. These investments will create positive ripple effects in Oregon's economic health and **grow strong job opportunities for the future**.

As the Chair of the House Education Committee, I know our economic health is connected to our education investment possibilities, and as an advocate for adequate funding I see the critical benefits of programs like RSIS not only on **job opportunities** and community stability, but also on the increased revenue generated by these projects. In short, an extended and funded RSIS will support our families, students, and education system better than the best bake sale or school auction ever could.

RSIS provides tools to local governments and federally recognized tribes and **helps Oregon maintain competitiveness with other states**. I want to thank the cities of

<u>Wilsonville</u> and Sherwood for their collaboration, leadership, and support with regards to

HB 2663. I encourage the committee to review the **testimony** of <u>Mayor Fitzgerald of Wilsonville</u> and <u>Mayor Rosener of Sherwood</u> who understand the positive impact that this bill could have on increasing employment lands in our region and all across our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, I urge your support for HB 2663.

Rep Courtney Neron

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood, Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain