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OREGON'S CHAMPION

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February 28, 2023

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

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Morgan and Nguyen, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express the Oregon Economic Development Association's (OEDA) support for HB 2199.

OEDA is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the service and support of Oregon's economic development practitioners on the front lines of diversifying and expanding Oregon's economy. Our association represents members and stakeholders from more than 180 public and private entities from economic development corporations, cities, counties, ports, utilities, tribes, and many other organizations interested in attracting and retaining investment here in Oregon.

Since the enterprise zone program was enacted in 1985 it has demonstrated the ability to create jobs, expand wealth, and enhance long-term property tax revenue with documented success. This program effectively encourages businesses to grow or locate in Oregon, and currently touches 35 counties, 143 cities, 15 ports, and lands of 2 tribes.

Property tax exemptions and other tax abatements are among Oregon's best tools for expanding investment in our local communities, particularly in economically distressed areas. The extension will provide certainty as our members and local governments look to add valuable manufacturing and other long-term jobs that raise local wages and create a ripple effect through our communities in greatest need.

Furthermore, extending the E-Zone program early will also allow potential CHIPS Act applicants to include the potential for using the program in applications, which demonstrates Oregon's proactive support of economic growth in the advanced manufacturing industry.

In order to increase and maintain Oregon's competitiveness in the semiconductor manufacturing space, our local governments must have the ability to offer Enterprise Zone program incentives and the flexibility to negotiate project terms that best address the needs of their communities.

On behalf of OEDA, our members and partners, I ask for your support for HB 2199 and the sunset extension of the Enterprise Zone program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caitlyn Q." in a cursive script.

Caitlyn Quwenikov (*Key-nov*)
Executive Director, Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA)