



ADVOCATE. CULTIVATE. EDUCATE.

February 23, 2023,

**Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Morgan and Nguyen and members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business:**

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Oregon Biosciences Association, in support extending the sunset date of Oregon's Enterprise Zone Program through to 2035 as contemplated by House Bill 2199.

The Oregon Biosciences Association views extending the Enterprise Zone Program sunset to be a critical aspect of the legislature's efforts to maintain Oregon's competitive position in growing and attracting a variety of high-tech business sectors, including our members.

Members of the Oregon Biosciences Association conduct cutting-edge research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, and environmental, biological, and medical technologies. Our members span the industry, from entrepreneurial startups developing a first product to large multinational therapeutic and device companies. We also represent the state's biotech research institutions, service providers to the industry, and academic centers of learning. As measured by our 2022 economic impact study, our growing bioscience industry has created nearly 66,000 jobs and \$16 billion of total economic activity in Oregon, as well as \$1.7 billion in tax and fee revenues for the State and for local governments.

The Enterprise Zone Program is an essential tool for retaining and growing the existing biosciences industry in Oregon. This program allows local governments to extend temporary property tax abatements for expansion or new investment in manufacturing sites, if the benefitted company pledges an increase in quality jobs that exceed the local average wages. Often, local governments will negotiate additional benefits to the local community in lieu of the property tax payments while the state benefits immediately from the subsequent income tax revenue. Enterprise zones have proven to be an important economic development tool for drawing new investments into Oregon, and our members have particularly benefitted from the program in establishing and expanding pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing facilities in multiple regions of our state.

When businesses like our members are looking to expand or invest in new manufacturing sites, key considerations include competitiveness from both a cost of construction and operations perspective, and reasonable predictability of costs over a multi-year time horizon.

To maintain that competitiveness and predictability, it is critical that the legislature act this session to extend the Enterprise Zone Program well beyond its existing 2025 sunset date. For that reason, we urge your very strong support of HB 2199.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liisa Bozinovic".

**Liisa Bozinovic**  
Oregon Bioscience Association  
*Executive Director*