



CITY OF REDMOND
Office of the Mayor

411 SW Ninth
Redmond, OR 97756

March 27, 2023

RE: Letter of Support for HB 2199 – Extending the Sunset Date for the Oregon Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement Program

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee;

On behalf of the Redmond City Council, I'm writing to encourage your support for House Bill 2199 which extends the sunset date on the Enterprise Zone program (E-Zone).

E-Zones are one of the best tools Oregon, particularly rural areas in Oregon, have for attracting traded sector investment and increasing our job base by offering limited duration property tax abatements on new capital investment. Since it was first enacted in 1985, the Enterprise Zone has a positive record of success. The program has a demonstrated ability to create jobs, expand wealth, and enhance long-term property tax revenue.

For Redmond, a city of nearly 40,000 people, we began using the Enterprise Zone tool in 1988. Since then, we have assisted more than 154 companies, created more than 3400 jobs and leveraged nearly \$165 million in private investment.

We are among Oregon's fastest growing cities, and one where housing prices are escalating at a pace far greater than wages, we need tools such as the Enterprise Zone to attract traded sector companies which have family wage jobs.

In alignment with the recommendations from the Semiconductor Task Force, extending Enterprise Zones will send a strong signal that Oregon is ready to support economic growth from the advanced manufacturing and semiconductor industries.

Sincerely,

Ed Fitch
Mayor
Redmond, Oregon