

February 24, 2025

Chair Daniel Nguyen  
House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Letter of Support for HB 3049, Oregon Investment Advantage (OIA)**

Dear Chair Nguyen and members of the Committee,

Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) supports HB 3049, which simplifies certain calculations, clarifies areas of statute, and provides for broader geographic use of the program while maintaining revenue neutrality for the State.

The Oregon Investment Advantage (OIA) program provides a multi-year taxable income exemption for a certified business that creates new, higher-wage jobs, typically in economically lagging rural counties across Oregon. Currently, two of our Central Oregon counties qualify for the OIA, and we have used this program in the past to compete with other areas outside the State. We also have several projects in distressed areas that would be eligible for certification. This bill will simplify some of the calculation methodology for those projects, making it easier to access the incentive and helping to improve County average wages.

EDCO is a private, non-profit organization serving the tri-county region of Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties. Our mission is to promote sustained job growth and prosperous communities through traded-sector industry growth. Our client base includes some of the highest paying companies, which contribute a large percentage of the tax base in Central Oregon.

We hope you will join us in supporting HB 3049. If you have any questions regarding my comments, please feel free to reach out to me directly. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,



Jon Stark, CEO  
Economic Development for Central Oregon

**Economic Development  
for Central Oregon**

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