

February 4th, 2026

The Honorable Representative Daniel Nguyen, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development,
Small Business and Trade
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 4084 – Governor Kotek's Economic Development Package

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Isadore and Skarlatos, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 4084 and Governor Kotek's Prosperity Roadmap. This legislation represents a meaningful and timely step toward strengthening Oregon's economic competitiveness while ensuring that rural communities are positioned to share in that growth.

KCEDA's mission is to lead economic development and diversification in Klamath County through business recruitment, retention, and expansion, with a focus on purposeful and sustainable growth. As the organization that manages Klamath County's enterprise zones and works daily with prospective and existing employers, we see firsthand how state policy choices directly influence investment decisions—particularly in rural and nonurban regions.

HB 4084 addresses several longstanding barriers to economic development in Oregon. The creation of a FastTrack Permitting program, supported by a Joint Permitting Council, is especially impactful. For capital-intensive projects, predictability and coordination across agencies are just as important as incentives. Establishing clear timelines and a single point of accountability will significantly improve Oregon's ability to compete for large-scale investments, particularly in nonurban counties where a \$50 million project can be transformational for the local economy.

The bill's emphasis on transparency through a comprehensive permit inventory and reporting on opportunities for fee relief is also critical. Unclear and inconsistent permitting timelines increase project risk, drive up costs, and disproportionately disadvantage rural areas with limited staffing capacity. Aligning permitting processes more closely with the pace of business will improve investor confidence and help Oregon retain and grow employers statewide.

Industrial site readiness is another area where HB 4084 will deliver real economic returns. Rural communities like Klamath County often have land and workforce advantages but lack the upfront infrastructure resources needed to make sites truly shovel-ready. The proposed investment in the Industrial Site Loan Fund will help close this gap, enabling communities to compete for manufacturing, energy, and traded-sector projects that create family-wage jobs and expand the local tax base.

Finally, modernizing Oregon's Enterprise Zone program is essential for reflecting today's economic realities. Adjusting job creation thresholds and allowing productivity, retention, and revenue growth as qualifying metrics recognizes that modern businesses are increasingly capital- and technology-intensive. These updates will ensure that enterprise zones remain an effective, accessible tool for rural and small communities seeking long-term economic stability.

Taken together, HB 4084 strengthens Oregon's economic foundation by reducing barriers to investment, improving regulatory certainty, and expanding access to proven development tools. For rural counties like

Klamath, these changes are not abstract policy improvements—they are the difference between projects moving forward or locating elsewhere.

KCEDA fully supports HB 4084 and urges the Committee to advance this legislation as an investment in Oregon's statewide prosperity and the economic future of its rural communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Matthews

Julie Matthews

Klamath County Economic Development Association