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COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

Laurie Bothwell
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 22, 2021

To: Gary Schmidt, County Administrator

From: Sarah Eckman, BCS Interim Director

RE: Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone (RREDZ) Reauthorization Issues Request

Summary: 1) Does the Board support reauthorization of the RREDZ, and 2) support a resolution at a future business meeting to reauthorize the program?

Background: The Clackamas County RREDZ was established in 2011 and expired on June 30, 2021.

The RREDZ incentive is a standard (3- to 5-year) exemption on qualified property available in any enterprise zone; however, in a RRED Zone it is only for renewable energy activities (which would also be eligible in an enterprise zone).

RRED Zones offer an incentive to encourage new investments that either:

- Harness wind, geothermal, solar, biomass or other unconventional forms of energy in Oregon to generate electricity, or
- Produce, distribute, or store any of a wide variety of biofuels.

The total amount of property (among one or more projects) that can qualify for an exemption is subject to a locally-set cap with each RRED Zone. For the Clackamas County RREDZ the cap is set at \$250M. Throughout Oregon, a city, county or several contiguous counties can set up a RRED Zone that covers all the territory in the jurisdiction(s) outside the urban growth boundary (UGB) of any metropolitan area or sizeable city. In Clackamas County, this excludes any area within the UGB of a metropolitan region or city with a population of 30,000 or more.

In order for the Clackamas County RRED zone to receive redesignation, a resolution must be submitted by Clackamas County to Business Oregon. The designation is valid for ten years.

Notice will be sent to all taxing districts as well as a courtesy email to currently participating cities (Canby, Molalla, Estacada and Sandy) as part of the public outreach process prior to application submittal. Written comments and/or testimony by the cities and taxing districts in the zone will be received by the BCC prior to adoption of the resolution. It has been confirmed by Business Oregon that Clackamas County does have final authority to submit the redesignation request. No resolutions are required from the cities.