

CHERI HELT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 54 - BEND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 18th, 2019

Dear Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak,

I would like to submit my vote explanation in regards to my 'Nay' vote on HB 2408. My concern lays with the potential negative impacts the passing of this bill will have on House District 54.

For a project to gain EZ status, the jobs they create must pay 150% or more of the average wage in the region; these are long term jobs. These jobs have a tremendous positive impact for long term residents and workers in our area, year after year.

According to EDCO, there are 10 projects in EZs in Central Oregon that would have been negatively impacted by this requirement, representing over \$387 million in investment, and over 500 permanent jobs. EDCO notes that "the Milken Institute ranked our overall wage growth over the past five years as #1 in the country (200+ small metros), so economic development that enterprise zones foster has the effect of raising all wages, particularly via new, well-paying permanent jobs."

Sincerely,

Cheri Helt

State Representative

House District 54

Bend, Oregon