



1006 E. Jackson St.
Medford, OR 97504
541.773.2872
www.buildso.org

13 May 2026

Governor Tina Kotek
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Governor Kotek,

On behalf of the Builders Association of Southern Oregon (BASO), I write in support of the proposed Opportunity Zone Tract 2.0 designation in Southern Oregon.

This proposal supports critically needed workforce housing. Southern Oregon continues to face significant housing affordability challenges that are impacting employers, families, and the long-term economic stability of the region. Many working individuals and families are being priced out of the communities where they work, while employers across multiple industries continue to struggle with recruiting and retaining employees due to limited housing availability and rising housing costs. The planned mixed-income housing projects within the proposed tract would help create more attainable housing opportunities for working families across the Rogue Valley while also supporting broader workforce stability and economic growth throughout the region.

Secondly, the proposed investment would provide a meaningful economic boost to the region. Large-scale development projects create construction jobs, support local businesses and contractors, and strengthen the long-term economic health of surrounding communities throughout Jackson County.

Thirdly, Southern Oregon University plays an important role in developing the future workforce of Southern Oregon and serves as a major regional economic asset. The university helps educate and retain talent in fields that are critical to the long-term success of our communities, including education, healthcare, business, public service. Supporting development connected to the university not only strengthens the regional workforce pipeline, but also helps create an environment where students, young professionals, and families can live and work locally after graduation. Continued investment in and around the university supports employers throughout the Rogue Valley while contributing to broader regional economic stability and growth.

Finally, this proposal helps bring greater geographic balance to Opportunity Zone investment across Oregon by directing additional attention and resources toward Southern Oregon communities. Much of the original Opportunity Zone investment activity was concentrated in Portland metropolitan areas, while many regional communities continue to face barriers attracting private capital and large-scale development. Southern Oregon has significant potential for responsible growth and economic investment, but often lacks access to the same level of funding and redevelopment opportunities seen elsewhere in the state. The proposed tract represents a strong opportunity to encourage investment in housing, infrastructure, workforce development, and regional economic vitality in a part of Oregon that is equally deserving of long-term strategic investment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Joey Minear
Chief Executive Officer
Builders Association of Southern Oregon