



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Consideration of extending the Deschutes County Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Direct staff to work with EDCO to schedule a public hearing to consider extending the Deschutes County Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone and send written notification about the public hearing to impacted municipal corporations, special service districts and other taxing districts.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

On December 15, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 2014-134 which led to Business Oregon creating a Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone in Deschutes County.

On January 22, 2025, the Board discussed extending the Renewable Energy Development Zone.

Rural Renewable Energy Development Zones offer a tax exemption incentive to encourage new investments in renewable energy. The incentive is a 100 percent (full) exemption from the property taxes normally assessed for the first 3-5 years of project operation. The zone encompasses the entire territory of Deschutes County, except for property inside the urban growth boundary as acknowledged for the City of Bend.

The existing Deschutes County Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone expires on June 30, 2025. If renewed, the new expiration date will be June 30, 2026.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

Foregone property tax revenue during the approval period to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

ATTENDANCE:

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator

Patricia Lucas, Executive Director, Sunriver La Pine Economic Development