

() Discussion only

(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: Letter of Support

<p>Background:</p> <p>The Board has been requested to provide a letter of support for the request to modify the boundaries of GEODC. The modification is to move Gilliam County into the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District boundaries. Gilliam County has more in common with the socioeconomic conditions of the Mid-Columbia region.</p>	<p>Requested Action:</p> <p>Approve letter and authorize Chair to sign</p>
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ATTACHMENTS : Proposed Letter

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

() Dept. Heard (copy)

() Human Resources (copy)

(X) Legal (copy)

() (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: June 18, 2025

Action taken:

Follow-up:

Request: Provide County resolutions or letters of support from at least a majority of the counties within the area to be served for each district regarding the request to modify the boundaries of MCEDD to include Gilliam County.

DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE

Items highlighted need to be updated by your County prior to signature.

DATE

Chris Cox
Seattle Regional Office
Economic Development Administration
Jackson Federal Building – Room 1890
915 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98174-1001

RE: District Boundary Modification Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Cox,

Please accept this letter of support from Umatilla County, Oregon to modify the boundaries of Great Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC). The modification would remove Gilliam County from within GEODC District boundaries and move Gilliam County to Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) District boundaries

Since GEODC district was designated, Gilliam County's economic base, priorities and alignment with regional partners has changed significantly. They have developed strong, regional partnerships for essential public services and share many of the same socioeconomic conditions with members of Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD). Several Oregon-state drawn regions group Gilliam County with MCEDD's other Oregon counties, including transportation through the Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation, workforce investment through East Cascades Workforce Investment Board, education through both Columbia Gorge Community College and Four Rivers Early Learning Hub. This is in recognition of the common workforce, geography and economy. Gilliam County is more similar to Klickitat County, WA and Sherman County, OR in the MCEDD region than the counties to its east and south in the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) region, sharing key industries such as wind energy, dryland wheat farming, and waste management, among others.

Umatilla County is a strong partner of GEODC and believes changing the boundaries of GEODC and MCEDD will better align regional economic conditions and priorities and ultimately benefit both Economic Development Districts, as well as Gilliam County. Through this letter of support, we respectfully request EDA consideration of this boundary modification request.

Sincerely,

ADD NAMES, TITLES AND SIGNATURES