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Testimony to House Judiciary Committee regarding HB 3188

Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I offer my testimony in favor of House Bill 3188.

The importance of lottery funds to the economic development of our state cannot be overstated. As we all know, the number one issue facing our communities and our constituents today is the need for economic development and a lack of jobs. The use of dollars received from the Oregon lottery system is one of the most important tools that counties and local governments have to promote those goals. At a time when budgets continue to shrink and the demand for services continue to increase, these dollars could not be more valuable. Multnomah County is facing our 11th consecutive year of budget cuts, and the money that we receive for economic development is vital to our continued delivery of the important services that we provide.

In Multnomah County, we are establishing a business advisory council to consult and work with to improve communication, development, and growth of the businesses in our region. This group will be a framework for discussion of county services, and how we can better serve the business community. This group will have a direct input into how Multnomah County uses its economic development dollars in the future, and how economic development in our community continues.