



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

February 5, 2014

Senator Chip Shields, Chair
Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room B
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1563

Dear Chair Shields and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for the SB 1563 and the -2 amendment. This bill and the -2 amendment are important steps in growing entrepreneurship and supporting job creation in Oregon.

SB 1563 encourages both the development of new businesses, as well as the growth of existing ones by increasing the cap for Oregon Entrepreneurial Development loans from \$70,000 to \$100,000. These loans help start-ups, micro-enterprises and small businesses expand or become established in Oregon. By increasing the cap, small businesses all over the state will be able to seek greater funding for more significant projects.

The -2 amendment encourages Business Oregon to identify, develop and promote entrepreneurial activities in rural communities. The City of Portland has experienced success through collaborative efforts between business, government and academia and believes similar efforts will bolster small businesses and create economic opportunity in communities across the state. Job creation is essential to the vitality of any community, and especially to rural areas that have been hit hard by the economic downturn.

Supporting entrepreneurial and small business development creates much needed economic opportunity and stability, and benefits all Oregonians. SB 1563 and the -2 amendment advance these goals and we respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner