

**Oregon Business Development Department
State Trade and Export Promotion**

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Small Business Administration, in the amount of \$450,000, for funds available under the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) program.

The Small Business Administration is offering grants to support state export programs that assist eligible small businesses. The agency applied for and received STEP grant awards in each of the previous three years. The application deadline for the current round of grants is May 20.

Business Oregon will use the funds to expand participation and services in its existing Oregon Trade Promotion Program, a program that provides financial assistance to Oregon companies attending international trade shows. Participation in these shows helps small businesses expand into new export markets and increase sales in foreign markets they already serve.

The agency will not need additional staff or funding to meet match requirements, and there are no requirements for OBDD to continue any program or expenditure levels after the grant expires.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.