

Chair Lininger, Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Reynold Roeder, and my firm is Roeder & Company, LLC. Our offices are in the Cedar Mill area near Beaverton.

Since 2011, the Oregon NMTC Program has proven to be an effective, targeted and cost-efficient financing tool valued by businesses, communities, and investors across the state.

All \$200 million of the original allocation authorized by the state has been deployed into a diverse array of projects in the manufacturing, renewable energy, health care, education, and non-profit sectors. One notable bright spot is that the state NMTC program has outperformed the federal program on providing capital to rural communities; 18% of projects have been in non-metropolitan areas under the federal program compared to 46% in the state program.

Examples of projects utilizing the Oregon NMTC include:

- A locally-owned wind project in Lime
- A LEED platinum food processing facility in Hood River
- A renovated community facility in Eugene for a nonprofit agency to integrate services and expand outreach, reaching over 1,700 individuals
- The re-acquisition of ancestral timberlands for a Tribe in Southwest Oregon; and
- A Head Start facility in an affordable housing community in Portland

None of these projects would have achieved the level of success they continue to demonstrate without the Oregon NMTC. These projects have created and retained thousands of jobs within low-income communities in Oregon. It is worth noting that the Oregon NMTC is the only tax credit that has as its specific purpose to create jobs and economic opportunities in Oregon's most disadvantaged communities.

Roeder & Company is a consultant in the NMTC industry – our clients are seeking federal and state NMTC funding. We currently have a pipeline of 26 projects in various stages of development with costs totaling approximately \$347 million, of which 38% are rural and 62% are urban. These projects include a lumber mill, a Native American early education facility, a community college expansion, homeless programming expansions, an aquaculture facility, veterans workforce training programs, agricultural processing facilities, and bioenergy plants.

There is significant demand for additional Oregon NMTCs, and we have no doubt that Oregon can build on the success of the original state allocation to grow and develop the economies in the state's low-income communities. Through our outreach efforts, we have heard that economic development agencies would like to have more tax incentives to offer in order to compete with other states, rural communities need more economic support for their industries, the bioscience industry needs more lab space, small businesses need access to capital, and all businesses need a trained and skilled workforce. Oregon NMTCs have and can continue to address all these needs and more, enabling the state to further demonstrate it can be nimble and responsive to its small businesses seeking patient, flexible capital.

The Oregon NMTC program is good for business, good for housing, and has been a catalytic force in Oregon's low-income communities throughout the state.