



OREGON SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER NETWORK

Helping Build Oregon's Best Businesses

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Oregon Small Business Development Center Network Testimony on HB 4025

February 6, 2018

Chair Gomberg and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Trade,

House Bill 4025 is an important step forward in learning from the recent wildfires so we can help our communities become more resilient in the face of future disasters. As service providers to small business, our Centers saw the challenges businesses faced first hand. We were there with our businesses as plans changed, employees were laid off, supply chains disrupted and as tourists never showed up for planned vacations.

The wildfires are an example of the challenges small businesses face, where it can be difficult to absorb unexpected costs or slim down when projected revenue doesn't turn into actual dollars. Our advisers and directors in these areas are actively working with all of the available resources from the Small Business Administration and are connecting clients to these resources as needed. As with any such situation, we often find that businesses need a helping hand and a trusted person in the community. Our Centers are here to support these business owners with both the technical resources they need and with an empathetic, caring ear they can turn to during difficult times.

As the legislature prepares for what will be a more robust discussion in the 2019 legislative session, the SBDC's would like to make sure the record reflects our willingness and desire to be a partner in these discussions. The list provided by this bill of areas of study is comprehensive, and we would encourage the committee to take a wider look. Issues such as unemployment insurance experience points may seem small, but can ultimately create a big impact in the long-term effects of a disaster.

Our Centers are here to help, and we work actively with Business Oregon in these efforts. Together, we truly are building Oregon's best businesses.

Sincerely,

Mark Gregory
State Director
Oregon Small Business Development Center Network