



Board of Commissioners

Courthouse, Room 110
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January 28, 2019

Senate Committee on Business and General Government

Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senator Mark Hass, Member
Senator Michael Dembrow, Member
900 Court St., NE, S-303
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Fred Girod, Vice-Chair
Senator Alan Olsen, Member

Re: SB 258 - Building Entrepreneurial Capacity in Rural Oregon

Dear Senators Riley, Girod, Hass, Olsen, and Dembrow:

My name is Claire Hall and I am Chair of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. Lincoln County has invested in and benefited from Venture Catalyst support from one of the organizations identified in SB 258. I am writing today to ask you to support SB 258.

Lincoln County and other cities and counties in this region have been funding the Venture Catalyst initiative. We have seen real results in our community and region from this initiative, including an increase in: the number of start-ups, the number of living-wage jobs, the amount of revenue generated by these start-ups, and the amount of capital invested in these start-ups.

Continuing to have a Venture Catalyst in our community that is free to entrepreneurs is an essential component of our rural economic development strategy. We cannot fund this alone, though. We need the State to invest in the statewide Venture Catalyst network to ensure the creation of a culture in Oregon that is conducive to entrepreneurial development and growth.

A statewide network of Venture Catalysts will:

- Provide long-term economic stability and growth for all Oregonians, including those in rural Oregon.
- Ensure start-ups will be connected to statewide resources that will help them start, scale, and stay in Oregon.

I urge you to support SB 258 to ensure Oregon's rural entrepreneurs have access to the same resources that urban entrepreneurs have.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claire Hall", is written over a white background.

Claire Hall, Chair, Lincoln County Board of Commissioners