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**Oregon**  
**Community**  
**Foundation**

January 29, 2019

Dear Chair Riley and Members of the Business & General  
Government Committee,

We write in support of Senate Bill 258. Our board understands the important role that entrepreneurs play in improving Oregon's economy. Since 2011, OCF has awarded \$645,000 to the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network to connect entrepreneurs with mentors, relevant training and investors for their companies. OEN has worked with partners such as Economic Development of Central Oregon and Oregon RAIN to develop a network of Venture Catalysts, people who directly serve entrepreneurs in their regions. OCF has nurtured the growth and expansion of the Venture Catalyst model in several regions of the state to directly support traded sector companies.

While there are a variety of ways to support entrepreneurs, OCF believes the regional hub model with spokes to serve more distant rural communities, positions Oregon to efficiently serve and connect entrepreneurs to the resources they need.

We appreciate your consideration of this coordinated approach and the state funding that is needed to strengthen the infrastructure that has been built with philanthropic and local government support.

Sincerely,



Max Williams  
President and CEO

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