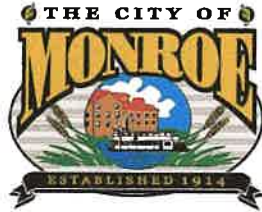


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January 29, 2019

Senate Committee on Business and General Government
Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Vice-Chair
Senator Mark Hass, Member
Senator Alan Olsen, Member
Senator Michael Dembrow, Member
900 Court St., NE, S-303
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 258 – Building Entrepreneurial Capacity in Rural Oregon

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

I am the City Administrator of the City of Monroe, population 625. Monroe is the applicant of record for the rural Benton & Linn County 8-cities grant from Business Oregon which is currently funding a rural regional venture catalyst. Monroe has invested in and benefited from Venture Catalyst support from one of the organizations identified in SB 285. I am writing today to ask you to support SB 285.

We have seen **real results** in our region from this initiative. We also have other budding entrepreneurs working on new business concepts and products who have not yet made to move to brick and mortar facilities. Having Venture Catalyst support available to these start-up businesses that is free to entrepreneurs is a crucial element in helping to increase their odds for success.

We are not able to 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.
- 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 285 to ensure Oregon's *rural* entrepreneurs have access to the same resources that *urban* entrepreneurs have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick A. Hohnbaum".

Rick A. Hohnbaum City Administrator.