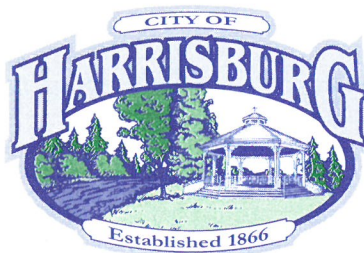


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January 29, 2019

Senate Committee on Business and General Government

900 Court St., NE, S-303
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Vice-Chair
Senator Mark Hass, Member

Senator Alan Olsen, Member
Senator Michael Dembrow, Member

Re: SB 258 - Building Entrepreneurial Capacity in Rural Oregon

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

I am the Mayor for the City of Harrisburg. The Harrisburg City Council and I have 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.

Our city, along with seven other rural cities, and Linn and Benton counties have been funding the Venture Catalyst initiative in our region. We have seen real results in our region from this initiative. Businesses in Harrisburg are expanding, and our historic downtown is being revitalized with new ventures. Our Venture Catalyst is working with entrepreneurs in our city to take their ideas or businesses to the next level and connect them with the appropriate resources and/or capital they need.

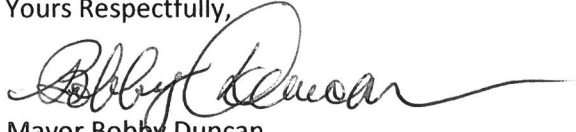
Continuing to have a Venture Catalyst in our region that is free to entrepreneurs is an essential component of our economic development strategy, as described in our Strategic Plan. However, we cannot fund this alone. We need the **State Legislature** to invest in the statewide Venture Catalyst network 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 258 to ensure Oregon's *rural* entrepreneurs have access to the same resources that *urban* entrepreneurs have.

Yours Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Duncan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Bobby Duncan

City of Harrisburg