



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:

My name is Matt Teske, I'm an entrepreneur in Portland, Oregon who has benefited from Venture Catalyst support in my community. I am writing to urge you to support SB 258, a bill to fund a statewide network of Venture Catalysts who would focus on connecting entrepreneurs in Oregon's communities with **people** (mentors & talent), **programs** (workshops & accelerators), **physical assets** (space & equipment), and **capital** (loans & equity).

The name of my start-up company is Chargeway. We provide a software platform, mobile app and communication solution designed to improve the electric vehicle customer experience with "electric fuel". Using colors and numbers, Chargeway creates a simple identity for charging plug type and speed options offering industry stakeholders and customers an easier way to understand how electric vehicles are charged. In 2018, I connected with Laura Kubisiak, a Venture Catalyst with one of the organizations identified in SB 258 that would build entrepreneurial capacity and support entrepreneurial growth in Oregon by developing regional assets and building a statewide network of resources.

Laura helped me with pitch deck coaching in preparation for the Eco-Capital Connections event in conjunction with Prosper Portland and Vertue Labs. With Laura Kubisiak's assistance, Chargeway has increased its visibility, fine-tuned our investor pitch and identified key partners for scaling up.

Having Venture Catalyst support available to me has meant that I could get the help I needed to grow my business without having to leave my community, and I get to contribute to boosting its economy and building the foundation for its future.

I encourage you to support SB 258 to ensure Oregon's entrepreneurs have access to resources needed to support and scale our businesses. A statewide network of Venture Catalysts will provide long-term economic stability and growth for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Teske'.

Matt Teske
Founder and CEO