



February 19, 2019

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for the Oregon Innovation Council (Oregon InC)

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of the Oregon Innovation Council (Oregon InC) programs administered by the Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) division of the Oregon Business Development Department. Oregon InC provides critical guidance into how best to invest limited dollars to support innovation in Oregon. In addition, Oregon InC provides critical funding for early-stage companies trying to commercialize technology and create the next generation of Oregon businesses. Funding for businesses at this stage is very difficult to find, and Oregon InC's programs help fill these gaps.

Oregon Business Development Department has been the fiscal agent for funds provided by the Oregon Legislature for use by OMIC R&D. These funds are used for our operations, develop our research capabilities to meet the needs of the metals manufacturing sector and create opportunities for young people to get the skills necessary to acquire good jobs in manufacturing. In addition, the Oregon Innovation Council awarded a HIOP Grant for a cutting tool inspection center of excellence that will allow the verification of new cutting tool manufacturing techniques. Investments in innovation are critical to the long-term economic health of manufacturing and the growth of jobs in that sector.

Oregon InC's programs help ensure that Oregon's entrepreneurs are not at a disadvantage compared to their peers in other states that have similar types of support programs. In addition, Oregon InC's funding leverages private investment and federal government grants, which magnifies its impact on Oregon's start-up community. We are

solid supporters of Oregon InC and its programs and will continue to work with the Council and the I&E division in the coming biennium to help Oregon's entrepreneurs be as successful as possible. We strongly encourage the Legislature to continue to fund this critical effort.

Sincerely,



OMIC R&D

Craig Campbell

Executive Director

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