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March 26, 2019

House Committee on Economic Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments support for HB 3110-3

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) supports passage of HB 3001-3 as a means to provide additional community and economic development servicing and direct benefit to our rural and smaller communities. While we strive to meet the needs of all of our communities, Economic Development Districts (EDDs) and other state and local partners are strained in meeting all needs within very limited funding.

With a small additional investment toward EDDs to build capacity and staffing to support our rural and smaller communities, we can better fill an identified service gap for Oregon communities that have historically had no means or sources of revenue to meet these identified needs.

In addition, we conservatively believe a minimum 3:1 return on investment can be expected based upon models in other states. As an example, access to 15 hours (or an estimated \$1,000) of free grant writing and funding application assistance can see a return of \$100,000 - \$1,000,000 or more for a community prioritized project and identified need.

The more we are able to support our communities in the identification and completion of funding applications, as well as building upon existing relationships and partnerships with state, federal and philanthropic interests, *the greater capacity we build for our smaller and more rural communities and the entire State of Oregon.*

Regards,

Sean O'Day
MWVCOG Executive Director

Renata Wakeley
MWVCOG Community Development Director