

February 7, 2020

Dear Chair Lively,

My name is Ryan Buchanan. I'm the founder, CEO, and owner of Thesis - a digital marketing agency here in Portland. We've been in operation since 2002 and we employ 130 creative professionals in the Greater Portland area with clients like Nike, Adobe, Providence Health Systems, and dozen others in and outside the state of Oregon.

I am writing today in support of HB 4033. I have included my own access to capital story below and am writing to advocate for other entrepreneurs and small business owners like me.

When I started the company, we had access to grants through Prosper Portland to help us grow and get into new office space. We also got access to angel investors through Oregon Entrepreneurs Network, which is currently massively cutting back services because of a lack of funding.

The Oregon community is losing a major player in nurturing entrepreneurs and the economy will see a delayed hit if the State of Oregon doesn't step in and provide access to capital (not just to entrepreneurs who look like me as a straight white male, but for all Oregonians, so we can all thrive here).

Thank you,
Ryan

thesis

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