

February 6, 2020

House Committee on Economic Development
Chair Rep. Lively, Co-Vice Chairs Rep. Fahey, Rep. Wilson, Members of the Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 4157

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Fahey, Rep. Wilson:

My name is Meg Chun and I am one of the founders of KIALOA Paddles. I am also a member of the Executive Board for the Oregon Outdoor Alliance. From 1992-2018 KIALOA was an Oregon business based in Bend with national and international sales. At the end of 2018 KIALOA sold to Werner Paddles, a Washington based paddle business. Sales and Marketing and Customer Service for KIALOA remains in Bend, Oregon.

I have been an active member in the Outdoor Industry since 1991 when we first started our business in Hawaii. We needed many different types of support over the years to help us learn what it takes to start, run, grow and sell a business. We required business advising and mentoring throughout all of those processes as well as education. We utilized a grant program for OMEP to help us streamline our manufacturing processes.

The state of Oregon can help with efforts of building an even larger outdoor industry as this is a thriving and growing sector. We all need to support HB 4157 to help provide funding for all of the things I mentioned above and more. The entrepreneurial drive in the Outdoor Industry is large and with so many Oregon Businesses moving into retirement we need the next generation to help drive our economy here in this state.

Sincerely,

Meg Chun
New Business Development/Brand Manager
KIALOA Paddles