

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 27: Business Development Department Pandemic Economic Recovery Planning Grant

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Gomberg

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application by the Oregon Business Development Department in the amount of \$1.0 million to the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for pandemic economic recovery planning.

The agency intends to use half of the available funding for two broadband mapping projects. The first of these is to create an investment map to guide broadband investment strategy and the other is a broadband planning map that includes specific metadata detailing network capacity, age, usage, interconnection points, and network access points.

The other half of the funding will be used for the implementation of findings and recommendations of the COVID-19 Equitable Economic Recovery Plan currently in development by OBDD. To do this the agency will add a Statewide Recovery Coordinator to oversee the plan implementation, including the review of barriers to economic development and state resources for Oregon tribal communities. The funding will also be used to extend disaster recovery staffing in each economic development district, and to support consulting services for export development and foreign direct investment strategy development.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.