



GROWING BUSINESS :: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

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March 3, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer  
Representative David Gomberg  
Ways and Means  
Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee  
900 Court St NE, Room H-178,  
Salem OR 97301

Re: Support for Business Oregon's Budget and Requesting Increased Support for Oregon's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)

Honorable Co-Chairs,

The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District provides economic and community development services to Baker, Union and Wallowa counties. Our regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy highlights the importance of small businesses, entrepreneurs and the organizations and services that support them.

Our region relies on Business Oregon programs that support community infrastructure and small businesses. We support Business Oregon's budget and request full funding as proposed for the **Rural Opportunity Initiative and technical assistance for businesses from underserved communities** and request that **full funding for Oregon SBDCs** be restored to Oregon's budget.

Efforts to support small businesses and entrepreneurial activity in our rural region are particularly important as we work to rebuild and strengthen local economies in this time of pandemic response and recovery. Small businesses will continue to need supportive services as we move into the next months and years. We encourage you to prioritize programs and services that will enhance our rural economies and the small businesses that are a critical part of the fabric of our communities.

Respectfully,

Lisa Dawson, Executive Director