



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**Briannon Fraley, Director**  
1221 S.W. Fourth Ave., Room 410  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503) 823-4130  
Fax: (503) 823-3014

March 3, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair  
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
900 Court St. NE, HR  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee,

The Legislature should invest in programs at Business Oregon with an eye toward equitable recovery and growth following the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for BIPOC communities. The City of Portland supports the inclusion of the following programs and funding packages in the Agency's 2021-23 biennial budget:

- POP 105: \$10 million in Lottery Bonds to recapitalize the **Brownfield Redevelopment Fund** to support projects that center environmental justice, increase community resilience, prioritize frontline communities, and support environmental restoration and remediation.
- POP 111: \$9 million in Lottery Funds for **Technical Assistance to Underrepresented Businesses** and investing in the **Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity**. Businesses are struggling to survive and adapt during this protracted public health emergency, especially those owned by BIPOC Oregonians. These businesses are particularly vulnerable to the severe disruption in the economy. Resources and policies should be established to stabilize the economy and promote an equitable recovery.
- \$50 million in Lottery Bonds, as supported in the Governor's Recommended Budget, to support the **Seismic Rehabilitation of Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URMs)**. Retrofitting URMs is often prohibitively expensive and additional tools are needed to foster these necessary upgrades. Establishing funding creates an essential tool to incentivize lifesaving retrofits for the large number of structures that will impact the public's life safety, mobility, and recovery after an earthquake.
- Investments in the **Oregon Broadband Office** to improve digital equity and inclusion by securing funding for computers and affordable, reliable internet service, regardless of location or income of recipient, to address the digital divide.

We urge your support for the funding priorities listed above. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Noll  
City of Portland  
[Eric.Noll@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Eric.Noll@portlandoregon.gov) | 503.823.6726