

Good evening Chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Shatrine Krake, I am the Executive Director of the West Linn Chamber of Commerce and Clackamas County Business Recovery Centers.

Today I am here to advocate for Oregon's small businesses and the need for financial support to rebuild and revitalize our weakened economy and business community. How can this be accomplished rapidly, with impact, wide-reach and equity? **Utilize and fund the established** Clackamas County Business Recovery Centers.

The Business Recovery Centers for Clackamas County are a collaboration of 7 Chambers of Commerce, and it is a cohort like I have never experienced before BECAUSE our purpose is clear, focused and vital. We as Chamber CEOs and Executives represent the voice of small businesses in our communities through advocacy, growth and equity. When COVID forced the businesses in our county to make dramatic changes compounded by wildfires and ice storms, it amplified our need to expand and expedite our offerings. Who better to provide these services than our established, trusted and connected Chambers of Commerce. We have local businesses ready to provide strategic resources for things such as financial & legal support, business & marketing strategies, employee & employer support including mental & public health reinforcement. Every resource will be available in multilingual formats to reach every business we possibly can. **By stabilizing small businesses within our county: we stabilize families, local economies, tax bases, and the character and integrity of our communities.**

Please help us continue this much needed effort we have begun. We are asking for a total of \$25 million from ARPA funds to directly support, revitalize and enhance our small business communities. We appreciate your consideration and support.

Thank you so very much for your time,
Shatrine Krake