

February 28, 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 Oregon's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) funding

To the Honorable Co-Chairs,

The Directors of Oregon's Economic Development Districts request full funding for Oregon SBDCs be restored to Oregon's budget.

The regions we represent throughout the state rely on the SBDC network as a critical hub of economic and business development training, information, funding, liaison, and support. SBDC's staff, programs and services are vital and irreplaceable, particularly in our rural regions. A reduction in services forced by funding cuts would have a devastating effect on our local businesses and economy.

During 2020, SBDCs across the state have infused nearly \$156 million dollars into local businesses, an increase of 144 percent over 2019. They have counseled over 26,000 existing and start-up businesses during this tumultuous time while helping to retain and create 4,000 jobs, an increase of 120 percent over 2019. Statewide SBDCs have held nearly 760 events serving over 12,000 attendees compared with nearly 9,000 in 2019. They have been able to flexibly change their service models and have often times been the only lifeline to small businesses, particularly in rural regions.

We understand that this is a difficult state budget climate. But reducing the state investment in the SBDCs will only further undermine state funding due to lost business development. SBDC has literally provided life support to our businesses and economy. We urge you to restore funding levels to continue this support. As the pandemic continues, this funding is more important than ever.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Aycock". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Scott Aycock, President, OEDD



February 24, 2021

Representative David Gomberg
Senator Lee Beyer
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter of Support for Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, Oregon.

We are pleased to write this letter of support our local SBDC in Ontario, Oregon. Snake River Economic Development Alliance (SREDA) is a non-profit, public-private regional partnership formed because of the economic adversities we face here in the Western Treasure Valley. We live in an economically suppressed rural area where business and growth need nurturing and assistance for a positive impact.

SREDA works closely with and relies heavily on our partnership with our local SBDC. Our business and community growth depend on the services they provide. From local entrepreneurs to larger businesses, they support and provide services needed to maintain local economic growth. Also many of our entities rely on the services and programs our SBDC provides.

The SBDC works closely with our local Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) CTE and provide programs to help support local industry training. We believe that the local SBDC has and will continue to have positive impacts on economic development and growth in Eastern Oregon.

We strongly support funding the SBDC throughout Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Kit Kamo
Kit Kamo
Executive Director

From: [Bonnie Angleton](#)
To: [Andrea Testi](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 5:48:54 PM

As a small business owner in Harney County, OR, we are very concerned about the proposed budget cuts to the Oregon SBDC.

We are a small business located in Burns, OR. We have enjoyed 30 years in this type of business. We are a Gift Shop, our name is Ribbons & Roses Unltd.

We have had some ups and downs during that time. However during the year 2020 it has been rough to say the least. We were completely shut down for 55 days, per the Governor's mandatory orders.

In the past months we have received help from the SBDC, with help applying for a grant to help cover the loss of not being open to serve our customers and pay the overhead..

We are gradually recovering from the losses we incurred during this time period, but currently we are only open part of the week.

The help from the crew at TVCC has been amazing, helping small businesses in the small communities.

Thank you for your time.

Bill & Bonnie Angleton
Ribbons & Roses Unltd.
Burns, OR 97720

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Care-O-Sell Consignment
156 S Oregon St
Ontario, OR 97914
541-881-1178

February 25, 2021

SBDC Funding
State of Oregon

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the SBDC programs across the state.

SBDC is a vital component of Small Town Oregon and it must stay stable and available for the Small Business Community.

Reducing funding for our local SBDC offices will be disastrous to small businesses across Oregon. Now, more than ever, Oregon Small Businesses are requiring guidance and assistance due to the downturn of the economy since March 2020. Small Business Development Centers are our local "Go To" resources for encouragement, advice and being available when we are struggling.

My name is Chris Kodama and I have owned Care-O-Sell Consignment in Ontario, Oregon since September, 2000. The staff at the SBDC at TVCC have been my mentors, advisors, counselors and good friends for 21 years. They were instrumental in helping to establish my business. They helped with everything from location selection, to business plan and establishing successful marketing plans and a building a strong customer base. Having the SBDC office for small businesses in Eastern Oregon is critical because of our rural location.

I also currently serve on the SBDC Advisory Board. I get to witness, first hand, just how important this organization is in our community. I get to sit with business leaders from around our area and witness their dedication to the idea that Small Business is so important for a healthy economy.

I am concerned about the current proposal from Governor Brown to reduce SBDC funding.

I am requesting that the OSBDCN funding level remain at the current biennium level of \$4.4 mil and not be reduced in 2021. I believe this is a critical time for the SBDC and they are more important right now than in the past decade. They need to be available for the recovery of our economy in the coming years.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to know more about my journey with the SBDC department at Treasure Valley Community College. 541-212-6006

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Kodama". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chris Kodama

HOMETOWN VALUES
166 SOUTH OREGON STREET
ONTARIO, OR 97914

Representative David Gomberg
Senator Lee Beyer
900 Court Street. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 23, 2021

Re: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions

Dear Representative Gomberg and Senator Beyer,

As small business owners, we are very concerned about the cuts to the Oregon SBDC in the Governor's proposed budget. We own a publishing business, specializing in two quarterly coupon magazines, thus providing cost effective advertising to other small businesses throughout the area. We began our association with SBDC in 2009 when we were first starting our business.

The SBDC has helped us better understand our business and in turn we have been able to assist other small businesses by referring them to the SBDC. During the pandemic, the SBDC has been instrumental in providing us with important legislative information regarding loan availability and the process applications, as well as all normal business practices to help our business survive.

This important service has helped many small business owners in our rural area. We strongly urge you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDC so they can continue this support.

Sincerely,

Merv & Patsy Leavitt
Owners, Hometown Values Savings Magazine

Representative David Gomberg
Senator Lee Beyer
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 25, 2021

Re: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions

Dear Representative Gomberg and Senator Beyer,

As a small business owner, I am very concerned about the cuts to the Oregon SBDC in the Governor's proposed budget. I own Soaring Phoenix Martial Arts Academy of Harney County in Burns. Since opening we have been working with students from as young as 5 years old up to 68 year olds in staying active, building confidence and developing skills for self defense. I first went to the Harney County SBDC in 2020 when I was first starting my business.

The SBDC has significantly helped me better understand my business finances and find ways to increase my businesses impact. During this pandemic, the SBDC has been enormously helpful and supportive in advising me how to correctly and efficiently work Quickbooks so that I can focus more on my students than the financials of the business. They have spent many hours working with me on holidays and weekends, the only time I have as I have a teaching job as well. Without their support I would not have any support and would be in a very big mess financially!

This is an important service that has helped many small business owners like me. I strongly urge you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDCs so they can continue to help small businesses.

Sincerely,
Joshua Weible
Owner, Soaring Phoenix Martial Arts

Representative David Gomberg
Senator Lee Beyer
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 24, 2021

Re: Proposed SBDC Budget Reduction

Dear Representative Gomberg and Senator Beyer,

As a small business owner in RURAL Eastern Oregon, we are extremely concerned regarding the budget cuts to the Oregon SBDC the Governor has proposed. We believe the SBDC needs to have the full funding to be able to help small business owners, like ourselves, in this time of need.

We own a wood business in Harney County Oregon. We started this business in 2017. We specialize in firewood, post/poles, rough cut lumber and finished lumber. In 2017 we only did firewood and post/pole. In 2020 we expanded to offer lumber products to our community. We got in contact with SBDC in 2020 when we were expanding our small business.

SBDC has worked closely with us during the process of our expansion, making sure we had all of our forecasting done right for getting a loan to move to a new location. SBDC has been communicating with us and the bank to make sure all of the paperwork is filled out properly.

SBDC has been helping with training for all small business owners. SBDC has also gave us other resources to help in different areas for our business development.

SBDC service is VERY IMPORTANT in our RURAL Eastern Oregon community, since we do not have the benefits of the west side of the state. We strongly urge you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDCs so they can continue to help small businesses, special in RURAL EASTERN OREGON!!

Sincerely,
Dayla & Randy Gibson
Outlaw Wood Products
Harney County Oregon