

Submitter: Andrea Letham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education

Measure: HB3017

Hello Chair Lively, Vice Chairs, and members of the committee,

My name is Andrea Letham, and in addition to being a business advisor with the Treasure Valley Community College Small Business Development Center, I work with High Desert Partnership's Biz Harney Opportunity Collaborative. Through this work, I have seen firsthand how important it is to support the development of small local businesses. Biz Harney has been developing an "idea to ownership" entrepreneurial pipeline, supporting Harney County businesses at all stages in their development, from training youth in entrepreneurial practices to supporting established businesses with individualized technical assistance. This comprehensive approach was driven by collaborative members of Biz Harney, not through a top-down approach. By creating a regional center for collaboration, High Desert Partnership will be able to grow more community-driven ideas to support the economic, educational, ecological and social vibrancy of our community and greater Southeast Oregon.

Many thanks,
Andrea Letham