

Submitter: Larry Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB3349

Since the amendment is not posted yet, I'm relying on the testimony from Rep Owens in making my comments. While I agree with the general principle of having an office to assist public officials at various levels to apply for federal resources, I don't think the plan described in the amendment will be the most effective approach.

Various federal offices are being advised by the US Department of Labor to incorporate the Biden administration's Good Jobs Initiative principles into grant proposal requirements. See this blog post for an insight to what Oregon communities will need to build into their plans: <https://blog.dol.gov/2023/03/01/building-good-jobs-in-the-us-tools-for-employers-workers-and-government>

This weaves workforce development into the infrastructure funding that local and state governments will be seeking. It has also been well-advertised that the semiconductor funding will include requirements to provide access to childcare for workers. Yet, I could find no reference to workforce or childcare in the amendment Rep Owen describes. To me this suggests a mismatch between what federal agencies are prioritizing and what the new coordinated approach is being built to offer.

If the goal is to establish rural development hubs, this resource looks like a good guide to evaluating the proposal in order to build approaches that will meet the federal funding requirements, while still building local capacity:
<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CSG-Rural-Devel-Hubs.pdf>