



City of Tigard

April 6, 2023

State of Oregon
Joints Ways and Means Committee
Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez

Re: SB 5524 and HB 2908 Financial Support for Oregon's SBDC

Good afternoon,

I encourage you to give the utmost consideration to fully funding SB5524 for the OBDD budget and supporting HB2908 for Oregon's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) funding to drive economic development and expanded local services to business owners.

This economic development program housed within the State's community college system provides business coaching, advising, and training to entrepreneurs *throughout* the State. Oregon's SBDC advisors coach new entrepreneurs as they build their business plan. They problem solve the "pain points" of running a business with business owners at every stage of their business lifecycle. They create unique programs that meet the needs of Oregon's entrepreneurial residents.

Oregon's SBDC network pioneered a nationally recognized program in export readiness through their *Global Trade Center* -- offering export-focused guidance to business owners across the State. Their *Getting Your Recipe to Market* collaboration with OSU's Food Innovation Center has attracted national attention from entrepreneurs. Their *Restaurant Business Builders* curriculum helps entrepreneurs from a range of backgrounds, ethnicities, and experiences as they start along the path of business ownership.

In the last year, the City of Tigard turned to the local SBDC team for guidance to create an innovative business incubator called the Launch Pod Business Accelerator. The City's economic development team worked with the SBDC's Capital Access Team to create a business-focused revolving loan fund to support small businesses and entrepreneurs in Tigard.

The SBDC is an essential partner in the State's economic development and business support ecosystem delivering services directly to the business owners who grow our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of Oregon SBDC funding through HB5524 and HB2908.

Sincerely,
Lloyd Purdy, MPA/MLA
Economic Development Manager
City of Tigard