March 20, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 5524 Public Hearing Written Testimony
Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Business Development Department for Certain Biennial Expenses

Dear Subcommittee Members,

My name is Robert Dorn, CEO/Owner of Hyak Tongue Point LLC (Hyak), located at 300 Railroad Avenue in Astoria. Since 2017, we have been transforming a decommissioned U.S. Navy Seaplane Base at Tongue Point into an effective location for building and repairing Columbia River commercial towboats and barges, Pacific Northwest Commercial fishing vessels, and West Coast/Alaska ocean tugs and barges.

Business Oregon helped secure a $350,000 grant for us from the Governors Strategic Reserve Fund in 2018 for rehabilitating the seaplane ramp on our property to be able to increase load capacity from 250 tons to 2500 tons. Our tenant, Bergerson Construction, performed the work on time and on budget, and another tenant of ours, WCT Marine & Construction, was able to increase the load capacity of its seaplane ramp haul out trailer from 150-ton boats to 450-ton boats.

In return for the grant, Hyak and its tenants were required to invest $5,000,000 into our businesses at Tongue Point within five years. By the end of year four (2022), we went above and beyond by investing a total of $8,249,174.

Business Oregon is also managing our ARPA/OBDD Grant Project Number SR2247 in support of Hyak building the world's largest mobile boat lift at Tongue Point. It is all-electric, with a zero-carbon footprint. This will create at least 100 new high-paying craft trades jobs in Astoria and increase support for the critically important Columbia River towboat and barge fleet.

The potential of Hyak Tongue Point as a jobs generator and a marine industry protector is becoming a reality because of Business Oregon. I am aware of dozens of other businesses and state agencies that she has also guided to success.

We urge the Subcommittee to approve Business Oregon's current budget request. Please contact me at any time with any questions or concerns. Thank you for allowing me to submit this letter in support of Business Oregon.

Sincerely,

Bob Dorn

Robert C. Dorn
Hyak Tongue Point, LLC
CEO/Owner
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