PORT OF THE DALLES

17 March 2023

TO: Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

RE: SB5524

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Woods and Representative Gomberg:

I am writing in support of Oregon Business Development Department's (OBDD) budget request for the 2023-2025 biennium.

As the past chair of of both the Infrastructure Finance Authority and the Oregon Public Ports Association, I have seen the positive impact of the OBDD programs on our communities, businesses, and ports in Oregon. The funding, technical expertise, business support, and community assistance offered through OBDD has lead to many successful projects that would not have happened otherwise. As one example, the Port of The Dalles was able to develop a 30 acre, shovel ready industrial area utilizing an OBDD loan. This site then became home to the first Google facility designed by Google and constructed from the ground up. Google has chosen to continue to grow in our community and provides great jobs and other community benefits. This would not have happened without OBDD assistance.

The OBDD programs are vital to the health of our rural communities and small businesses and I support this budget request which will allow OBDD to continue to provide the economic development services and programs throughout Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Business Oregon 2023-2025 budget request.

Andrea Klaas, Executive Director
Port of The Dalles