City of Falls City
299 Mill Street
Falls City, OR 97344
Ph 503.787.3631

To the Joint Committee on Ways & Means,

This is a letter in support of SB 5524 to appropriate moneys from General Fund to Oregon Business Development Department for certain biennial expenses.

As the city manager of a small rural Oregon community, it would be nearly impossible for me to be able to serve the residents of Falls City without the work of Business Oregon's Regional Development Officer. The lack of staff capacity in our small town prevents us from being able to efficiently navigate through the many bureaucratic hurdles necessary to secure funding for infrastructure projects. The RDO for our region was instrumental in convening the relevant agencies to support us in our $5.7 million wastewater facility project. Through his help and that of his Business Oregon colleagues, we were able to secure the necessary CDBG funding that enabled the community to renew its aging and failing wastewater treatment facilities.

In a previous governmental role, I was also able to witness firsthand the critical support that Business Oregon provides small businesses and start-ups from rural communities to gain access to national and international markets. This assistance helps expose Oregon firms to markets in the food processing, advanced manufacturing, textile and electronics industries. Given that many states in the U.S. provide financial incentives to their homegrown businesses for land acquisition and expedited permitting as well as tax breaks, Business Oregon's continued mission to support local businesses has enabled them to be more competitive in national and international markets.

Sincerely,

AJ Foscoli
Falls City
City Manager