Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs
731 N. Hayden Meadows Dr. • Portland, OR 97217
(503) 249-7744 • fax(503) 249-2027 • www.oame.org

March 20, 2023

Senator Aaron Woods
Representative David Gomberg
Co-Chairs of the Joint Ways and Means Committee on Transportation and Economic Development

Dear Senator Woods and Representative Gomberg,

We are writing to express our full support for SB 5524, particularly the Business Oregon budget.

Our Founder and Chair Emeritus, Samuel Brooks, was a founding member of the committee that helped establish the MWESDVB certification program in Oregon, which advocates for Minority, Women, Emerging Small and Service-Disabled Veteran Businesses to eliminate all forms of discrimination.

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) Board and staff have collaborated with COBID (Certification Office for Inclusion & Diversity) by promoting "Every Body's In and Nobody's Out" as a guiding principle for conducting business in Oregon. Despite the progress made, it is crucial to continue working to eradicate all forms of discrimination from our business environment to achieve success.

As such, SB 5524 allocates necessary funding for COBID to expand its services to our small business community, including certification processing, outreach, advocacy, and training. For OAME's part, we will continue the mission "To promote and develop entrepreneurship and economic development for ethnic minorities in Oregon and Southwest Washington and reduce racism and discrimination."

Finally, we hold the COBID leadership and team in high esteem and have confidence that passing SB 5524 will further enable efforts to support our small and disadvantaged businesses.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication to promoting fair and inclusive business practices in Oregon.

Cordially,

Samuel "Sam" Brooks
Founder & Chair Emeritus
OAME

Herb Yamamoto
Owner and CEO, BIM Connection
Chair of OAME Board of Directors