Submitter: Debbie Hendrickx

On Behalf Of: Swell gelato

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development

Measure: SB5524

I own Swell gelato LLC and we make gelato for dogs in The Dalles OR.

I moved here from Seattle in order to scale up my business in 2021 as I could not afford a commercial building in Seattle and had outgrown my own kitchen and garage.

In the first year I was here I hired a team (was a one woman operation before), expanded my equipment and was able to scale to some extent. It soon became clear that to really scale up I needed to invest in some automation equipment but I did not have the capital on hand as I had invested heavily in my commercial building.

Thanks to Business Oregon I was able to get a grant and a loan that helped me secure the equipment needed to facilitate the growth I am planning. This scaling up will allow me to employ more people and export more sales out of Oregon

I highly support Business Oregon’s budget request so that other small companies might also be able to scale up with their help. It’s been a catalyst for growth for Swell gelato