PHILIPPINE AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF OREGON

March 22, 2023

Co-Chair Senator Aaron Woods
Co-Chair Representative David Gomberg
Oregon State Legislature
Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Business Development Department

Dear Co-Chair Woods and Co-Chair Gomberg,

The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon (PACCO) is a 27-year-old nonprofit organization serving Asian American, Pacific Islanders, Black, Latine, including various socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurial Oregonians. I am the President/Interim Executive Director of PACCO and serve as an appointed council member of the Governor's Racial Justice Council and co-chair the GRJC Economic Opportunity Committee. During the last three years, PACCO has been deeply engaged as a community-based organization delivering culturally responsive business education programs and limited funding assistance through ARPA dollars.

I write to you today in support of the 2023-2025 Business Oregon's biennium budget SB 5524. Business Oregon and its hard-working staff are vitally important to an inclusive business environment and equitable economy. The comprehensive development and innovative planning led by Business Oregon sets the platform for a future Oregon that fosters a healthy, resilient, and prosperous Oregon.

Through the Technical Assistance Program, over thirty culturally responsive organizations like PACCO, with targeted areas of focus and industry, have designed and grown effective programming that communities, urban and rural, have come to trust and rely upon by thousands of Oregon entrepreneurs. We were able to help thousands of Oregonians find the relevant resources, receive the tools to grow their business and workforce, and provided marketing assistance to grow revenues through e-commerce and online tools enabling innovative expansion of their goods and services.

We fully support funding the COBID Capacity, the Rural Opportunity Initiative, Technical Assistance Program, Economic Equity Investment, Industrial Site Readiness, as well as items from the Governor's Recommended Budget package such as Broadband, Early Childcare Assistance, Advanced Manufacturing Opportunity Fund. Further, we ask for certainty for these programs and recommend you approve this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janice Mason
President/Interim Executive Director

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