Oregon Bioscience Association

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March 16, 2023

Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

My name is Liisa Bozinovic and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Bioscience Association. The Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio) is Oregon's voice for the growth of our biotech sector. Our members are involved in cutting-edge research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, and environmental biotechnologies. They range from entrepreneurial startups developing a first product to large multinational therapeutic and device companies. We also represent the state's biotech research institutions, service providers to the industry, and academic centers of learning.

Oregon's bioscience industry has experienced incredible growth in the past 18 years. In the most recent economic impact survey, the 18-year period between 2002 and 2020, total bioscience employment increased 85% (+5,270 jobs), total wages increased 215% (+$593.4 million), and average annual wages increased 71% (+$31,340). Oregon's 1,480 life science firms and leading academic and research institutions generated total economic impact of almost 66,000 jobs and $15.7 billion in output in 2020 (see *Oregon's Bio Boom 2022 Economic Impact Report* here).

Our members have adapted to this increased growth in a variety of innovative ways to continue to recruit and retain bioscience facilities and jobs. An example of the resilience and collaboration within our industry is the Oregon Translational Research and Development Institute (OTRADI) and the Oregon Bioscience Incubator (OBI). OTRADI was created to help startup companies and university researchers in Oregon find funding partners with the underlying goal of attracting, growing, and keeping bioscience companies and jobs here in Oregon. Since their inception in 2007, OTRADI has leveraged $20 million in state funding into more than $685 million federal and private funds and revenue.

Within the bioscience industry, start-up costs create a large aversion for new companies to enter the market. Small bioscience companies need to use their limited funds to hire employees and produce the research that will launch their products. These businesses are limited by capital, and they cannot afford to spend their resources on building out and equipping their own wet labs and office space. By acting as a bioscience incubation space for

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these small companies, OTRADI has helped over 75 bioscience companies meet their goals and expand into this competitive market.

Additionally, to meet the ongoing needs, OTRADI has expanded to 29,000 square feet of wet lab and office facilities and provides hundreds of thousands of dollars of cost-prohibitive equipment in shared labs and conference facilities. The OBI also provides Advisor and Mentor programs led by seasoned entrepreneurs and business experts, monthly entrepreneurial education programs, and networking events. Most importantly, the OBI is a community of companies at different stages ranging from single employee companies to those receiving their first rounds of private venture funding. The camaraderie and lessons learned by companies sharing space has proved to be invaluable to growing bioscience businesses.

The Oregon Bioscience Association is committed to working with our members, like OTRADI and OBI, and listening to the evolving needs of our bioscience community in order to be an integral part of our growing bioscience ecosystem in Oregon. Thank you for being our partners in these exciting days to come.

Sincerely,

Liisa Bozinovic
Oregon Bioscience Association
Executive Director