PNDC
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
DEFENSE COALITION

03/23/2023

Re: SB 5524 - Oregon Business Development Department

Chair Woods, Chair Gomberg and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development:

It is an honor for the Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition (PNDC) to present this written testimony in support of SB 5524 and provide input on the successful use of state budgeted funds. PNDC is a non-profit business trade association representing defense manufacturing businesses across Oregon that are essential to the economic growth and development of the state. Our 2023-2025 proposal of programmed events – supported by Business Oregon – benefit the manufacturing supply chain in Oregon, enabling a breadth of business. The State of Oregon, like many states in the nation, faces significant challenges in terms of revenue generation and budget allocation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. In the face of these challenges, PNDC, through the success of our event offerings, business advocacy and member assistance, provides community solutions and business opportunity in the state. Satisfying the needs of our Oregon members in collaboration with Business Oregon is a vitally important relationship to build and strengthen the ecosystem.

As a trade organization representing a range of businesses in Oregon, we believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion are critical values that should be embraced. We are committed to fostering such an environment within our organization and we believe that this commitment extends to our broader community, including the state at large. Our membership consists of a variety of minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses. We recognize that there is always more work to be done ensuring that all individuals have access to opportunities and resources.

As a key partner, Business Oregon, has increased the capacity of PNDC's ongoing goal of putting Oregon on the map within the Defense Industrial Base. PNDC's working relationship with Business Oregon has brought prosperity for Oregonian industries, innovators, and small businesses. Successful community building across companies in the defense supply chain leads to a stronger economy overall. As we've seen in recent years, a strong and resilient supply chain is a necessary factor in domestic production. Collaboration and mutual support are critical to supporting the vast array of businesses pushing for economic growth in Oregon. SB 5524 will enable continued development opportunities for companies in the state. The likely result of this action is stronger business resiliency, new job creation, and showing the regional economy at large how necessary and important Oregon is.

From 2023 to 2025, PNDC will put on a series of economic development support activities as a result of Business Oregon's involvement and contributions. Supply Chain Opportunities Conferences provide access to regional prime and high tier suppliers for small businesses in the supply chain. By encouraging new and leveraging existing relationships, the business-to-business relations in the state will continue to expand. By positioning these events throughout the state, greater outreach will be achieved and in turn support the entire Defense Industrial Base in Oregon. PNDC supports other programs that add depth to the industry-defense connection. Namely, the Mission Acceleration Center (MAC), a pacific northwest non-profit organization, is mission driven to remove barriers of entry for business opportunity with the Department of Defense (DoD). PNDC intends to put a branch of the MAC in our Tigard location for better access to the strong network of DoD partners established at the first MAC in Seattle, Washington. By positioning a direct line of contact in Oregon to the MAC and the mission partner network, including the National Security Innovation Network, Oregon businesses will have increased visibility and access to DoD opportunity.

Additionally, working with the DoD mission partners through the MAC – PNDC will host a collider event in Oregon focused on tactical gear and outdoor wearables. A first of its kind event will highlight what Oregon has to offer in these technology areas. Furthermore, bringing regional recognition of the already robust textile and wearable market in Oregon. Finally, Homeland Security, through the PNDC and MAC relationships, will return to Oregon meeting with companies in the area through a hosted luncheon with representatives and specialists from the department. These many events provide insight into the DoD supply chain and how to prepare to functionally participate with the complex DoD environment as a small business.

Being enabled by the state of Oregon and Business Oregon, PNDC works towards the shared goal of economic resilience and prosperity. There are so many critical businesses in the great state of Oregon that provide value well beyond their recognition. Through programming, advocacy, and strategic development - Oregon business leaps ahead of the competition by the continued support of this committee and Business Oregon's successful decision making. The defense supply chain is complex but held together by a wide network of small to medium sized businesses in Oregon. Increased job creation and economic well-being are a function of the trust placed in passing measures such as SB 5524 to allow Oregon businesses to not only continue to develop - but thrive.

We believe that a strong, vibrant business community is critical to the success of Oregon business and the economy. Therefore, we hope you continue taking funding actions that support the growth and development of the work being done by Business Oregon. Community building through PNDC events, supported by the state, will attract and retain businesses in Oregon. Together, we can create a brighter future for the State of Oregon and its citizens. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to support economic development in the state. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that Oregon remains a great place to do business for years to come. PNDC supports SB 5524 and its investment in the Oregon Business Development Department and Business Oregon. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition (PNDC)