**WASHINGTON COUNTY**
**OREGON**

March 22, 2023

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

VIA OLIS

Re: Oregon Business and development Department Proposed Budget (SB 5524)

Co-Chairs Sollman and Evans, Members of the Committee:

Washington County is the second largest county in the state of Oregon, with over 600,000 people residing within the County. Since 1990, the county's population has nearly doubled in size, most recently our population has grown at a rate equivalent to 19 people moving in every day. This growth has made us one of the most rapidly growing and most diverse county in the state. As a result, we have worked to finance and develop the infrastructure to create livable communities as well as working to incentivize businesses large and small to thrive.

The proposed budget for Business Oregon reflects shared commitment from the state in working in developing infrastructure, including broadband, that can serve the housing and economic development needs of our communities. Increasing the Special Public Works Fund, funding brownfield clean up, and other efforts to increase the developability of lands is vital to meeting the shared goals around housing and industrial lands.

In addition, preparing the state for the significant funding available from the federal government to increase affordable and modern broadband access is vital to communities both rural and urban. Washington County is a committed partner in those efforts and is looking for the means to increase access from Beaverton to Banks and into the truly rural areas in Western Washington County.

We support these efforts in the proposed budget for Business Oregon and look forward to further partnership in achieving thriving communities.

Sincerely,

Erin Doyle

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