

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 14: Oregon Business Development Department State Trade and Export Promotion

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Owens

The Natural Resources Subcommittee heard a request from the Oregon Business Development Department for retroactive approval to submit a federal grant application for assistance to small businesses in accessing foreign markets.

The Department provided notice of intent to apply to the U.S. Small Business Administration for a \$500,000 grant on July 15, 2025. The application was submitted July 29. If awarded, funds will be granted to eligible businesses for activities that support international sales. Examples include trade show participation, international e-commerce platform design, language translation, and consulting fees. Matching funds of \$166,667 are required, which will come from the Industry Competitiveness Fund. If the grant is awarded, the agency will return to the legislature or Emergency Board for additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation. No additional positions are required to administer the grant.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means retroactively approve the submission of a federal grant application by the Oregon Business Development Department to the U.S. Small Business Administration, in the amount of \$500,000, for small business trade and export promotion assistance.