

Submitter: K Miller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1512

The Prosperity Council is comprised of people who took over corporations and jobs, generally, as CEO's. Lois Cho has five years of experience making wine, hardly industry-qualified for state business development in a critical crisis. Eastern Oregon is not represented, nor are farming and ranching, other than the Tillamook creamery. These are not generational family farm members, who could provide direct insight. The Small Business Association is not here, giving its input. The fact that so many of us lost our businesses during COVID, are we seen? What about a program that gives us back our businesses? It is not the permitting that is the issue; it is democrat policies, ask Dutch Bros. I have worked in permitting; stop making false reports to Oregonians. Dutch Bros recently moved their HQ to Arizona after coming to Kotek, why? Creating councils for people who have not had to build their own businesses from the ground up to advise what? You need staff input. I advise allowing public comment at this council, should you approve this council anyway. Find the real barriers, such as at the SBA. Ask the SBA what they need to fast track businessses. Kotek must accept that her polices do not align with business owners; therefore, contract out to an agency with reputational, political, and social acumen to deliver, rather than a council to advise. Give us results with a proven company that does nothing else but economic development, and be ready for change, even if it doesn't align with democratic polices. We are tired of 6 counties ruining everything once good about this state. I have lived here all my life, and it is disgusting what has happened here. Businesses are rolling up faster and faster every day. We are losing a farm a day. We are mowing over generational farms for cheap housing. They aren't even made well. Perfect example, look to Hermiston. Furthermore, in economic development, we must consider infrastructure. You aren't rehabbing old buildings for new manufacturing, you're building new, leaving empty buildings and blight. You're looking for tech companies, not sheetmetal, glass, and aerospace. I propose you create a robust rehab program that will fast-track clean-up residential and commercial properties, remodel homes to bring them up to code, rehab businesses and old manufacturing buildings, and provide a mechanism for code enforcement for cities that can't afford it. You created the problem; you should clean it up, not leave it to the cities to figure out. That is the true barrier. Lastly, start asking people what they need rather than telling us what we need, because it isn't working. Kotek is too far removed from the real issues to be trusted to make sound decisions, as she is putting us into debt to try to save her own job. Stop creating more government for government, fix the budget, and fix the property tax code. Give the people a path back to their businesses and let us be seen. I myself lost everything when I lost my business during COVID. Acknowledge us!