

Testimony In Support of HB 4016: Evann Goss-Lemelle, Black American Chamber and Community Economic Coalition

Chair Nguyen, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Evann Goss-Lemelle, Executive Director of the Black American Chamber of Oregon. I am here representing the Community Economic Coalition, a collaboration between the Native, Hispanic, Black-American, and Philippine-American Chambers of Commerce. We work to advance community-centered economic development across the state.

I am here to strongly support HB 4061 (2026), which aims to make Oregon more economically resilient.

The Community Economic Coalition has worked closely with Rep Nguyen on one provision of this bill – the procurement reform roadmap.

Over the last three years, the Department of Administrative Services reports that Oregon issued \$7.1 billion in contracts, yet only \$150 million, or 2%, went to COBID businesses.

The roadmap aims to address that though:

- Legal analysis of current procurement laws to identify barriers to effective local procurement, especially for businesses in economically distressed communities.
- An assessment of state procurement spending over the past five years to determine what share of that spending has gone to entities inside Oregon versus outside the state.
- A tax impact analysis comparing local and non-local contracts.
- Reviewing existing best practices the state uses regarding procurement.
- Recommendations for implementation of reforms identified in the roadmap.

Even modest increases in procurement for Oregon-based businesses act as a powerful local economic stimulus.

Oregon needs a ground-up, grassroots recovery. One that shares prosperity through every level of our society. Procurement reform is a critical tool to make this possible.

Every businessperson knows that you have to invest to grow. This roadmap is an investment in Oregon's future and I strongly urge you to support it.