



**LORETTA SMITH
PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1**

February 2, 2026

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4061 - Procurement Roadmap & Business Retention

Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Isadore and Skarlatos, and Members of the Committee,

As Oregon continues its economic recovery, communities across the state are focused on strengthening local businesses, retaining jobs, and ensuring public dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. HB 4061 will help advance these shared priorities.

Across the state, public procurement represents an important opportunity to improve value for taxpayers while supporting Oregon businesses and workers. When procurement systems are clear, competitive, and accessible, more locally owned firms can participate, increasing competition, improving outcomes, and keeping dollars circulating in local economies.

Between August 2022 and August 2025, the State of Oregon procured approximately \$7.1 billion in services, yet only \$149 million (about 2.1%) went to COBID-certified firms. This suggests there is room to improve procurement practices, reduce unnecessary barriers, and better align purchasing with the state's economic and workforce goals. A thoughtful roadmap can help identify practical reforms that help expand opportunities for qualified Oregon businesses.

The bill's focus on business retention is also important. Retaining existing businesses is one of the most cost-effective ways to protect jobs, maintain local tax bases, and support economic stability. Businesses that can plan, invest, and remain rooted in their communities are better positioned to train workers, adapt to changing conditions, and contribute to long-term growth.

The City of Portland has an active Business Retention Task Force at the local level and would welcome the opportunity to participate in or coordinate with the proposed State task force to avoid duplication and align state and local strategies. Collaboration across levels of government will be key to ensuring this effort delivers real, measurable results.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of HB 4061 and appreciate the committee's leadership in advancing policies that strengthen Oregon's businesses and economic resilience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Loretta J. Smith".

Councilor Loretta Smith
Council District 1