



Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 5, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 1526 | The Fund for Oregon Resilience, Growth & Energy

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

Craft3 is a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) located in Oregon and Washington. We use capital to invest in businesses, people, and communities. Since 1994 we've been making high-impact loans to businesses, homeowners, and nonprofits – especially those unable to access traditional financing. We empower entrepreneurs and homeowners by offering them resources to help chart their course, and we collaborate with many community and regional partners to create meaningful change. Learn more at www.Craft3.org.

Craft3 supports Senate Bill 1526, a bill that takes fiscally-neutral steps to establish the Fund for Oregon Resilience, Growth & Energy (FORGE). It directs the Oregon Department of Energy to apply for grant funding from the Environmental Restoration Council under the State Agency Program Fund and, only if at least \$2 million dollars are received, to recruit a founding board to create a nonprofit to run FORGE.

FORGE is intended to serve in a complementary role to help finance Oregon's energy and resilience needs. It will increase access to affordable capital and attract private capital, helping to facilitate projects for Oregon schools, businesses, and housing while creating jobs and growing small businesses. By making more loans available and affordable, the Fund's backing will reduce risk and help to finance needed projects across the state.

Craft3 is pleased to support Senate Bill 1526, which starts Oregon on a path to creating an entity with the experience and tools to create jobs and economic development opportunities across Oregon and close the gaps in financing for many of our public and private institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elisabeth Zeller".

Elisabeth Zeller
CEO, Craft3