

Dear Senators Riley, Girod, Hass, Olsen, and Dembrow,

My name is Bill Davis and I am an entrepreneur in Portland (PDX) who has benefited from Venture Catalyst support in my community.

I am writing to urge you to support SB 258, a bill to fund a statewide network of Venture Catalysts who would focus on connecting entrepreneurs in Oregon's communities with **people** (mentors & talent), **programs** (workshops & accelerators), **physical assets** (space & equipment), and **capital** (loans & equity).

The name of my start-up company is BeachNecessities.com and we sell beach accessories / products online. In 2018, I connected with Laura Kubisiak, a Venture Catalyst with one of the organizations identified in SB 258 that would build entrepreneurial capacity and support entrepreneurial growth in Oregon by developing regional assets and building a statewide network of resources. Specifically Laura helped me by getting acclimated into the greater PDX area as I just moved here from Seattle in 9/18 as well as mentoring.

With Laura Kubisiak's assistance, BeachNecessities.com has been introduced into key resources in the greater PDX entrepreneurial ecosystem which has raised our visibility locally which is a great boost as we will be raising a seed round of financing in 2019. Having Venture Catalyst support available to me has meant that I could get the help I needed to grow my business without having to leave my community, and I get to contribute to boosting its economy and building the foundation for its future.

I encourage you to support SB 258 to ensure Oregon's entrepreneurs have access to resources needed to support and scale our businesses. A statewide network of Venture Catalysts will provide long-term economic stability and growth for all Oregonians.

Respectfully,

--Bill

Bill Davis
BeachNecessities.com
www.BeachNecessities.com
bill@BeachNecessities.com
C: +1 207.766.8696