



Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for the Oregon Innovation Council (Oregon InC)

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of the Oregon Innovation Council (Oregon InC) programs administered by the Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) division of the Oregon Business Development Department.

Innovative companies and ideas are an important part of Beaverton's brand as a place to start and grow a business. As the birthplace of the Silicon Forest, Beaverton has a strong track record of innovative start-ups that have emerged as regional and global leaders in their industries. Oregon InC's work on a state level has directly impacted companies and organizations in Beaverton through High Impact Opportunity Grants and the SBIR Support Program. We could also provide specific examples where the Signature Research Centers have directly impacted our emerging firms through technical assistance and other types of support.

Oregon InC's programs help ensure that Oregon's entrepreneurs are not at a disadvantage compared to their peers in other states that have similar types of support programs. In addition, Oregon InC's funding leverages private investment and federal government grants, which magnifies its impact on Oregon's start-up community. We are solid supporters of Oregon InC and its programs and will continue to work with the Council and the I&E division in the coming biennium to help Oregon's entrepreneurs be as successful as possible. We strongly encourage the Legislature to continue to fund this critical effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "M" and "W".

Michael J. Williams, Economic Development Manager
City of Beaverton