

Hemex Health

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February 18, 2019

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

RE: Bill# SB5524, 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. Oregon InC provides critical guidance into how best to invest limited dollars to support innovation in Oregon. In addition, Oregon InC provides critical funding for early-stage companies trying to commercialize technology and create the next generation of Oregon businesses. Funding for businesses at this stage is very difficult to find, and Oregon InC's programs help fill these gaps.

Hemex Health is an early-stage company that is focused on providing breakthrough, affordable diagnostics that will meet the needs of both the developing and developed world. Hemex has received two matching SBIR grants from Business Oregon – one each for our malaria and sickle cell diagnostic:

- *Engineering, Testing and Refinement of Novel Malaria Diagnostic Reader:* The grant received for this project was used to design a sample collection cartridge for the malaria test that was both affordable and usable by an entry-level healthcare worker. (The work complemented our NIH NIAID Phase II SBIR project to develop and commercialize the technology driving the malaria test.) Status: completed on 11/30/18
- *Enhanced Sickle Cell Disease Cartridge Automated Manufacturing Process:* This grant is being used to design an automated manufacturing process for the sickle cell disease cartridge that will keep production costs low and ensure consistent quality. (The cartridge design is part of the NIH NHLBI Fast-Track SBIR awarded to Hemex.) Status: in process; due date: 6/30/19

The Business Oregon grants have benefited Hemex in two important ways. First, without these funds, introduction of the product would have been significantly delayed. Second, we believe that having this kind of support from the State of Oregon is valued by potential investors. Additionally, the funds have enabled us to add an additional headcount here in Portland as well as to use local vendors.

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 cursive script that reads "Patricia A. White". The signature is written in black ink and is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

Patricia A. White
CEO
Hemex Health, Inc.