



Oregon House of Representatives  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
Hearing on HB 2998  
March 13, 2019

Honorable Chair Barker, Vice Chair Barreto, Vice Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2998 on behalf of Hacienda Community Development Corporation

House Bill 2988 removes the English language only requirement for documents related to business organizations that are submitting for filing to the Secretary of State. This requirement has created barriers and diminished opportunities for entrepreneurs with Limited-English-Proficiency.

Hacienda CDC's Portland Mercado supports micro-entrepreneurs and small business owners to launch, grow, and sustain their businesses by providing technical assistance, accessible commercial kitchen spaces, and access to new markets. We prioritize working with Oregon's Latinx, low-income communities. In working with clients, we can attest first-hand to the barriers created by a lack of organizational accessibility in the business registration filing process.

Increased accessibility in the filing process will lead to the establishment of more small businesses in Oregon which signifies more tax revenue and employment. Based on estimates given to us by the Secretary of State Staff, the translation of filing forms could provide an addition of over 17,000 businesses per biennium. The Small Business Administration has found that the average minority owned business in Oregon hires seven employees. According to the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, in the state of Oregon, there are over 225,000 individuals with Limited English Proficiency, they all deserve access to entrepreneurship and financial opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shea Flaherty Betin".

Shea Flaherty Betin

Portland Mercado Director