



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5023
March 3, 2021

Submitted by the Community Chamber Coalition of Oregon (CCCO)

Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer
Co-Chair Representative David Gomberg
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic
Development
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Community Chamber Coalition of Oregon (CCCO) supports HB 5023, the budget for Business Oregon, to ensure operations, services, and programs continue to help business development in Oregon, especially in underserved communities. The CCCO is made up of culturally specific chambers of commerce and is allied with numerous supporters and partners.

With unity and a collective voice, the CCCO understands the scope of the issues facing our underserved communities and advocates in ways that uplift and center our frontline communities with specific, clear, actionable policy decisions from the legislature and elected officials. We believe that advancing equitable development will emerge our state as a model for both community development and economic growth. Studies and research have already shown us the business case for racial equity, and now is the time to begin to address economic disparities and deficiencies through game-changing policy and ample investment such as HB 5023. By enacting appropriate legislative policy on economic development and capital investments, the state of Oregon can set up opportunities for increased minority entrepreneurship, business ownership, and wealth mobility.

CCCO has worked closely with Business Oregon to ensure that funds from the CARES Act and the state were directed to Oregon's most vulnerable small businesses from underserved communities. This included advocating for accessible and culturally responsive technical assistance as well as grant funding to diverse small businesses throughout the State. Through this work,

funds were distributed equitably and expeditiously while the response was in measure to the crisis facing our communities.

CCCO lauds Business Oregon’s role in supporting the Governor’s Racial Justice Council (RJC). CCCO supports the RJC’s work on developing policy and budget remedies including the current focus on the lack of access to capital for businesses, culturally responsive technical assistance tailored to rural and racially diverse communities, accessible procurement processes that prioritize state spending toward Native and BIPOC owned, local, and small business, and workforce development. The current policies and lack of critical funding to these issues have perpetuated economic inequality for decades and have compounded the impacts of historic discrimination such as redlining practices in homeownership loans, lack of traditional lending options in low-income communities, and overreliance on personal credit for financing for business start-ups.

CCCO highlights the importance of the following Business Oregon’s programs to small businesses:

- **Policy Option Package #111** - Technical assistance for businesses from underserved communities
- **Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity**
- **Rural Opportunity Initiative**

We, community leaders of culturally specific organizations noted below, submit our support for a budget that enables Business Oregon to continue services important to Oregon’s small businesses and with strong emphasis to adopt Policy Option Package #111, which invests in technical assistance that addresses business challenges specific to underserved communities.

Respectfully submitted,

THE COMMUNITY CHAMBER COALITION OF OREGON

Jesse Hyatt Executive Director Black American Chamber of Commerce (BACC)	Carmen Castro Executive Director Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber (HMC)	James Parker Co-Chair, CCCO Executive Director Oregon Native American Chamber (ONAC)	Janice Mason Co-Chair, CCCO President Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon (PACCO)
--	--	---	--