



Home of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

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March 3, 2021

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

RE: Proposed Budget for Business Oregon – Support– HB 5023

Dear Senator Beyer, Representative Gomberg & members of the committee:

On behalf of the City of Sherwood, we first want to acknowledge and support the historic level of spending found in the Governor's recommended budget for Business Oregon. As one of the many cities in Oregon, the City of Sherwood has been on the front line of the economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Business Oregon has certainly been a strong partner in these efforts. Above all, the agency has proven to be nimble, best demonstrated by their ability to get needed support out quickly to main street businesses across the state while still keeping up with day to day work cities rely on including critical assistance with infrastructure funding. These investments will be invaluable to our state's recovery. We would urge the committee to not make any reductions to staffing levels at Business Oregon, so they are able to keep up with the additional funds they will manage.

Sherwood is especially supportive of the:

- \$50 million in lottery bonds for the Special Public Works Fund to assist with regional infrastructure needs and public works projects around the state through loans and limited grants to public agencies for planning and construction.

- \$100 million in general obligation bonds for the Broadband Office to provide broadband infrastructure grants and loans to communities with matching grants for federal dollars. As a provider of municipal broadband for over a decade, our city understands the value and importance of broadband access for our communities and this investment is more critical than ever.

Thank you for taking Sherwood's comments into consideration as you deliberate over HB 5023 and provide the needed funds for Business Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith M.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Mays
Mayor, City of Sherwood