

February 4, 2021

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Erik Andersson

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The Honorable Paul Evans
Chair, House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2461

Dear Mr. Chair:

Please accept this letter as my written testimony on HB2461.

HB 2461 establishes a program to create an Oregon Critical Disaster Preparedness Stockpile to ensure robust stock of emergency supplies and equipment. While it is crucial that Oregonians have access to personal protective equipment and other necessary supplies for use in emergencies, it also provides an opportunity to support the Oregon businesses who have invested capital and significant effort to retool operations to produce such necessities.

As SEDCOR adapted our work plan to respond to the emerging needs created by the pandemic, one of the activities we prioritized was development of a Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Directory. The directory includes businesses in Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties who made the investment of time and resources to retool for the manufacturing of face shields, masks, gowns, sanitizer and other PPE products. We are very proud of the businesses who have stepped up to help, from dental products manufacturer A-dec in Newberg to raingear manufacturer WaterShed and recreation apparel company NW Alpine in Salem. We are continuing to work with several of these businesses to identify ways to strengthen the industry cluster of PPE manufacturers here in the Mid-Valley.

By providing up to date information on the types and volumes of products required and purchase contracts for those goods, this initiative will provide greater market certainty, which in turn will allow Oregon manufacturers to invest in new equipment, product designs and inventories, as well as maintain existing capacity for PPE production. SEDCOR has also found that targeted incentives and technical assistance to identify and navigate public procurement policies and procedures were key elements needed to help Oregon businesses pivot into the PPE industry. What makes the PPE industry so unique is that it is in fact an intersection between many distinct

industries including apparel, recreation products, food and beverage processing, medical instruments, high tech and others; and many of the businesses SEDCOR worked with found it easier to pivot production than to adapt marketing and sales to serve new markets.

We support the work that HB 2461 is promoting to strengthen inventories and production capacity of PPE around the State of Oregon and believe this will provide an economic development opportunity for Oregon manufacturers to meet future needs for PPE in times of emergency.

Thank you very much for considering this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Andersson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Erik Andersson