

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 19, 2021

Representative David Gomberg
Senator Lee Beyer
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions

Dear Representative Gomberg and Senator Beyer:

On behalf of the Treasure Valley Community College Board of Education, we are deeply concerned about Governor Brown's proposed cuts to the Oregon Small Business Development Center, particularly during these unprecedented times.

We are sure you can agree that small businesses in Oregon and even across our great Nation have been hit the hardest. To cut funding now to the centers that provide so much support to assist small businesses work through not only the everyday challenges but during a time of a global pandemic seems incomprehensible. SBDCs have proven to be a safety net business owners can turn to and rely upon for help.

In 2020, the small staff at the TVCC SBDC was instrumental in serving 376 small businesses, holding numerous trainings and workshops and guiding clients to grant opportunities. All the while encouraging them to think outside the box, to stay resilient, and be hopeful as many struggled with how they were going to keep their doors open. A reduction in services caused by the proposed funding cut would have a devastating effect on our local businesses, economy and community.

As college board members and community members, we see the value of our tax dollars and return in investments to our community by the services SBDC provides our rural region. The TVCC SBDC staff truly care about each business and clients are not a number but our neighbors.

We urge you to support the work of SBDC and ask that you advocate to maintain the level of funding needed for SBDC to continue to provide these much-needed services.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Cruson, Board Chair
Treasure Valley Community College

cc: Senator Lynn Findley and Representative Mark Owens



CITY OF HINES

PH: 541-573-2251 FAX: 541-573-5827 EMAIL: administrator@ci.hines.or.us

Governor Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Re: Support for the Oregon Coast Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

To the Honorable Governor Kate Brown,

I am writing to urge you do everything in your power to restore full funding to Oregon SBDC's.

SBDC is a crucial service broadly benefitting communities throughout the entire State. I have personally witnessed the difference an SBDC advisor can make when they enter the doors of a struggling small business to provide badly needed guidance and resources.

This is especially true in rural Oregon. Keeping Oregon SBDC's fully funded is the most egalitarian ways to benefit all Oregonians.

Please consider the dire implications of the proposed funding changes and keep Oregon SBDC's fully funded.

Sincerely,

Kirby Letham
City Administrator



February 22, 2021

Representative David Gomberg
Senator Lee Beyer
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support Treasure Valley Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Dear Representative Gomberg and Senator Beyer,

I am a small business owner in Nyssa, Oregon. I have two small businesses and I am the President of the Nyssa Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Our local businesses, including farm families, have really come to depend on Andrea and the team at the Treasure Valley SBDC.

When you're running a small business there are so many changes to keep up with, employee issues, and financial concerns it doesn't seem like there is enough time in the day to keep up with everything. That's where the SBDC comes in. They have been so helpful with any question I have from payroll to employee issues, to new ventures, to state changes. They dig right in, find the answer, and then help implement those necessary updates. They have been an exceptional conduit between small business and the state.

Being involved with the Chamber has opened my eyes even further to the issues and concerns of so many other small businesses in our area. Most, if not all, have reached out to the SBDC more than a few times for guidance and help. It's not a once and done relationship. It's a continuous relationship because the one constant is things are always changing.

We're over on the Oregon/Idaho border, so we often feel neglected on state issues. The SBDC has been a great conduit to help us make sense of the new laws and regulations especially pertaining to COVID. Now would be a crucial time to expand the budget for the SBDC not cut it in half!!!

I strongly urge you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDCs so they can continue to help small businesses. We need them!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tawni Maxwell".

Tawni Maxwell
President, Nyssa Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
Owner, Simpli Balanced, LLC & Cleaneat, LLC



City of Ontario
444 SW 4th Street
Ontario, OR 97914
Voice (541)881-3223
Fax (541)889-7121

February 23, 2020

Representative David Gomberg
Senator Lee Beyer
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Gomberg and Beyer,
The City Council of Ontario would like to express support for full funding of our local Small Business Development Center (SBDC). It is our understanding that the Governor's proposed budget dramatically reduced funding for SBDC's. We wish to express that this decision would have negative impacts on our business community.

The SBDC has been and continues to be a valuable resource for our city. There is simply no other resource available like the Small Business Development Center for people who want to start a business, but don't know how to begin the process. Our SBDC has been able to bring people's ideas to solid businesses that add value and enrichment to our city.

The SBDC has been especially invaluable during this pandemic. Our city staff has worked together with the SBDC to understand and address the needs of local small businesses over the past year. We functioned very closely as a team between city staff, the SBDC, and Business Oregon to solve challenges. It was the SBDC that had the personal relationships with the small businesses. Without their involvement we would not have been aware of the acute needs of local businesses.

We sincerely hope that you will find funding to continue to support Small Business Development Centers throughout the state and most specifically here in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Riley J. Hill
Mayor

CC: Senator Lynn Findley
Representative Mark Owens



MALHEUR COUNTY

COUNTY COURT

251 B Street West #5, Vale, Oregon 97918 Phone (541) 473-5124 Fax (541) 473-5576

February 24, 2021

Governor Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Re: Support for the Treasure Valley Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

To the Honorable Governor Kate Brown:

The Malheur County Court urges you to restore full funding to Oregon SBDC's. Our community relies on the Treasure Valley SBDC as a critical hub of economic and business development training, information, funding, liaison, and support. Throughout the pandemic, SBDC services have been more critical than ever in helping small business survive; its staff, programs and services are vital and irreplaceable. A reduction in services, forced by funding cuts, would have a devastating effect on our local businesses and economy.

Last year, the local TVCC SBDC met with nearly 400 clients to provide endless hours of business services, pandemic loan guidance, and assist in business startup. The majority of 2020 services were business retention (staying alive). \$2.2M of capital infusion to local business included the complicated COVID programs. The majority of these businesses were owned by women and minorities.

The TVCC SBDC has proved critical to hundreds of local businesses. It is inconceivable that it could prove to be the last hour of this vital local resource. We urge you to restore the funding necessary to continue providing this service to eastern Oregon.

Sincerely,

Malheur County Judge Dan P. Joyce

Malheur County Commissioner Don Hodge

Malheur County Commissioner Ron Jacobs

Representative David Gomberg
Senator Lee Beyer
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 23, 2021
Re: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions

Dear Representative Gomberg and Senator Beyer,

As a small business owner, I am very concerned about the cuts to the Oregon SBDC in the Governor's proposed budget. I own [ExZacht Sewing & Alterations in Vale, OR](#). I am a local seamstress offering repairs, alterations, and custom sewing.

I first went to the Ontario, OR SBDC in 2016, when I was first starting my business. The SBDC has helped me create my business plan, open my business from home, walked me through all the parts of being a business owner, helped me understand bookkeeping and finances. They helped me when I moved my business from my home to a shop location, and most recently the SBDC is helping me as I increase/build my business once again as I take on a commercial contract. The SBDC is helping facilitate the necessary adjustments as I grow and thrive as an independent business owner. I have learned bookkeeping, QuickBooks, advertising, and marketing strategies, putting systems in place, and I am looking forward to having my coaches helping me as I continue to grow!

During this pandemic, the SBDC has been enormously helpful advising me about financial opportunities and helping me obtain several grants to help my business survive. I would not be in business if it weren't for the assistance of the SBDC. This is an important service that has helped many small business owners like me. I strongly urge you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDCs so they can continue to help small businesses.

Sincerely,

Cathy Zacharias, Seamstress & Owner
[ExZacht Sewing & Alterations](#)
233 A Street W, Vale, OR 97918
541-216-1839
exzachtsewing@gmail.com

February 19,2021

Representative David Gomberg

Senator Lee Beyer

900 Court Street, NE

Salem, O R 97301

RE: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions o Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to inform you of the irreplaceable resource I have found in the Small Business Development Center located at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon.

My first experience with SBDC was many years ago when I was working toward taking over my parent's business. They helped me develop a business plan and guided me to funding resources. This endeavor did not pan out and I lost touch with them.

When new regulations came about continuing education for contractors for their contractor's licenses, I once again was honored to recommend and use the SBDC in Ontario to comply with the new requirements. My parent's company would have lost their construction license without the continued education courses and resources provided by the SBDC. They were a wealth of information and were able to help us understand the new regulations and pass the required courses to continue our family business safely and in compliance with state regulations.

As a new business owner in 2015, I was once again in need of SBDC help with getting a commercial business loan for a location for my business. They helped me develop a new business plan and went through many different aspects of the loan process and funding resources. After a couple years of doing business and getting the property ready to finance, I was finally able to get a standard commercial bank loan in 2020, which helps my business save money every day.

If all the SBDC was there for was to help start-ups, they certainly do an excellent job, but they have helped me with so much more. They are my go-to resource for any business questions I have, especially this last year with the new Covid-19 mandates. They keep me up to date on any new suggestions for a healthy and safe workplace, as well as new funding resources and financial help during this stressful time. The fact that they just call to check up on me and how my business is doing is a real comfort.

I have recommended the Small Business Development Center to multiple other people looking for help starting or running their businesses. The continued support and knowledge provided by the people at the SBDC in Ontario, Oregon is

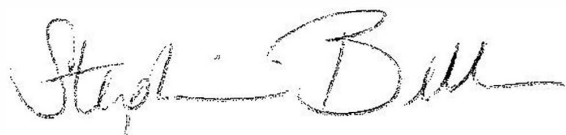
unmatched by any other resources I have looked in to for help. I feel this is a great resource for business owners in any occupation and in any phase of their business.

I feel that cutting funding to resources like this, will not only hurt small businesses, but hurt communities that utilize these small businesses. Living in rural Oregon, small businesses are the backbone of our community. I would not be where I am at today without the help and support of this resource and hope that you will take this into consideration when making your budgeting decisions.

In closing, I leave you with just 1 question:

Why would you defund such a VITAL resource for many small businesses when many of us are already struggling with the current situations in our country?

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steph Bellows". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Stephanie Bellows, Owner
Steph Rents, LLC.
Ontario, Oregon



February 22, 2021

Governor Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301, 4047

RE: Support Treasure Valley Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Dear Governor Brown,

I am a small business owner in Nyssa, Oregon. I have two small businesses and I am the President of the Nyssa Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Our local businesses, including farm families, have really come to depend on Andrea and the team at the Treasure Valley SBDC.

When you're running a small business there are so many changes to keep up with, employee issues, and financial concerns it doesn't seem like there is enough time in the day to keep up with everything. That's where the SBDC comes in. They have been so helpful with any question I have from payroll to employee issues, to new ventures, to state changes. They dig right in, find the answer, and then help implement those necessary updates. They have been an exceptional conduit between small business and the state.

Being involved with the Chamber has opened my eyes even further to the issues and concerns of so many other small businesses in our area. Most, if not all, have reached out to the SBDC more than a few times for guidance and help. It's not a once and done relationship. It's a continuous relationship because the one constant is things are always changing.

We're over on the Oregon/Idaho border, so we often feel neglected on state issues. The SBDC has been a great conduit to help us make sense of the new laws and regulations especially pertaining to COVID. Now would be a crucial time to expand the budget for the SBDC not cut it in half!!!

I strongly urge you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDCs so they can continue to help small businesses. We need them!

Thank you,

Tawni Maxwell
President, Nyssa Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
Owner, Simpli Balanced, LLC & Owner, Cleanat, LLC