

Representative David Gomberg

Senator Lee Beyer

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

February 27, 2021

Re: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions

Dear Representative Gomberg and Senator Beyer,

As a small business owner, I am genuinely concerned about the cuts to the Oregon SBDC in the Governor's proposed budget. I own Kenway Benefits Group. I specialize in all insurance products for my clients. I first went to the Gresham SBDC in 2007 when I was first starting my business.

The SBDC has helped me better understand my business finances and create a business plan. During this pandemic, the SBDC has been enormously helpful advising me how to best use the PPP loan to help my business survive. I am also the President/Executive Director the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce. The PPP program and additional advice that I have obtained through my local SBDC has been invaluable. Small business needs the services that are offered though the SBDC is greatly needed and deserves to be fully funded to keep our community strong and growing through this time of crisis. In recognizing the needs of our minority communities makes this even more urgent to create more equity for parts of our communities that have been under served for a long time.

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,

Geoffrey Kenway

Owner Kenway Benefits Group

President/Executive Director

West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce