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January 28, 2025

Senate Committee on Labor & Business  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for SB 569 – Filling a Gap to Help Minority-Owned Businesses**

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Committee Members,

Thank you for your consideration of SB 569, a bill that will help more businesses become eligible for certification by the State of Oregon's Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity, or COBID.

Multnomah County supports SB 569 because we believe this bill would help to fill a gap that currently exists for many minority-owned firms to get over the hurdle to gain COBID certification. Achieving COBID certification will give these businesses a competitive advantage as they bid on work with the state.

Multnomah County has a long history of supporting diversity and inclusion for our contracts with businesses. One example of our commitment to this value is our Construction Diversity and Equity Fund (CDEF), which last year provided direct technical assistance to 30 COBID certified businesses. Unfortunately, programs like CDEF are unable to fund a business's efforts to become certified by COBID. Senate Bill 569 would provide a solution to this gap by creating a program at Business Oregon.

Thank you for considering our comments, and we respectfully request your support for SB 569.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Smith, MPA, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, PMP  
Multnomah County Procurement Manager

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