



January 28, 2025

Senate Committee on Labor and Business
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 569

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham and Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Hillsboro, We are writing to express our strong support for SB 569, which establishes a grant program to help minority-owned businesses achieve certification through Oregon's Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID). This important initiative is critical to fostering equity, economic growth, and opportunity within our state.

Hillsboro is a vibrant and diverse community where innovation and entrepreneurship thrive. However, we recognize that minority-owned businesses often face systemic barriers to accessing public contracts and economic opportunities. Certification through COBID is a vital step for these businesses to compete effectively in public procurement processes as prime contractors and as subcontractors. Unfortunately, many minority entrepreneurs lack the resources and support needed to navigate the certification process. SB 569 addresses this gap by financially supporting nonprofits and community-based organizations to provide the technical assistance and guidance necessary for minority-owned businesses to overcome these challenges.

Certified minority-owned businesses contribute to the vitality of local communities, drive job creation, and enhance the diversity of vendors participating in public projects. SB 569 aligns with Hillsboro's commitment to equity and inclusion, and it will enable us to strengthen partnerships with minority entrepreneurs who bring innovation and resilience to our local economy.

Thank you for considering this important issue, we urge your support.

Sincerely,

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