

Submitter: Jeff Gaus

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Transportation and Economic Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5024

I am a strong supporter of Business Oregon's intended function and have partnered on: 1) the Oregon Enterprise Blockchain Venture Studio, 2) the National Defense University Trade Mission to Oregon (3rd time on March 31), 3) CHIPSAct and NIST supply chain provenance, 4) Infrastructure Summit - Housing, and 5) corporate recruiting.

I believe Business Oregon's budget is too small by at least half, and its focus needs to be narrowed. Much of their activity is project management of legislative actions, many of which do not directly contribute to economic development. The legislature should set up a Project Management Office to handle special projects and let Business Oregon do the job of economic development.

This State derives nearly all of its revenue from personal and corporate income taxes. As a result, the economic development agency should be chartered and funded to grow TAXABLE GDP of the state as large and as fast as is possible. It is also important to remember that economic development does not always happen in a linear fashion, nor within a biennium. Funding, expectations, and timing must be aligned.

I find the people of Business Oregon to be pleasant to work with and I have developed many collaborative relationships. I'd like to see the organization become more involved in the development of professional economic development workers through more internships, program involvement (such as Oregon Business Academy), and academic outreach into High Schools.

I think the mission of Business Oregon is one of the most critical functions of the State, because without a vibrant, healthy business community, we have no State.

I would be honored to appear before the Committee and offer personal testimony and answer any questions legislators may have. Thank you for your consideration,

Jeff Gaus
Founder/CEO
The Provenance Chain Network

Co-founder/Board Chair
The Missing Middle Housing Fund

jeff.gaus@theprovenancechain.com
+1.503.704.4211