

Submitter: Tea Godfrey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3588

I am the owner of BIZ CUBE LLC which opened its doors on January 1st of this year. My experience with my first business (Solid Serve Legal) in interacting with coworking spaces, is what compelled me to start BIZ CUBE. Coworking spaces are vital sources of support for emerging small businesses. We give new entrepreneurs and growing businesses a place to conduct business with the public when the cost of leasing your own office and staffing it would be exorbitant.

Small businesses who are mobile, work remotely, or are just getting started must have a way to register their business with the Secretary of State's office in a way that allows them to protect their privacy. At this time, the only way to register your business online, is to use your home address. OR, to submit your paperwork via hardcopy along with a copy of a membership agreement with a coworking space. Because coworking spaces are required by law to register with the USPS as CMRA (Commercial Mail Receiving Agency), our address is automatically flagged in the SOS system and will reject any filing that is attempted online. The SOS does have a work around which can be onerous, which (as previously mentioned) is to submit the paperwork via the USPS mail. With the technology that we have today, the SOS system could be altered to identify coworking spaces as such and to not automatically reject electronic filings. If we want Oregon to be business-friendly, this would go a long way toward making that a reality.