



March 17, 2025

Chairs Lieber and Sanchez
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Letter of Support for the Business Oregon Budget (HB 5024) and listed Policy Options Packages (POPs) and other Bills

Dear Chairs and members of the Committee,

Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) strongly supports the Business Oregon budget request for funding for the 25/26 and 26/27 biennium.

EDCO is a private, non-profit organization serving the tri-county region of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties whose mission is to promote sustained job growth and prosperous communities through traded-sector industry growth. Our client base includes some of the highest paying companies who contribute a significant percentage of the tax base in Central Oregon.

Business Oregon has been an essential partner in supporting the growth and relocation of traded-sector businesses within our region. By leveraging key resources and expertise—ranging from infrastructure funding (SPWF) to business capital programs (OBDF, CEF, ORF), as well as business recruitment, export assistance, industrial site marketing, technical assistance and incentive support —Business Oregon enhances our ability to provide the tools and resources needed to drive economic growth and ensure long-term prosperity for the communities we serve.

In addition to the budget request, EDCO supports the following Policy Options and Bills listed below.

- POP 500** – Housing Infrastructure and Site Readiness
- POP 103** – Operations Staffing
- POP 105** – Technical Assistance Underrepresented Businesses
- POP 106** – Expansion of International Trade and Support
- POP 115** and **POP 116** – Special Public Works Fund
- POP 118** and **HB 2349** – Industrial Site Loan Fund
- HB 3031** – Housing Infrastructure and Site Readiness
- HB 2047** – Clean Tech Sector Initiative
- HB 3049** – Oregon Investment Advantage Enhancements

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In a state like Oregon, which is inordinately dependent upon income tax as a primary source of revenue, there must be tools to create jobs. We believe these tools will help accelerate further economic growth and job creation in Central Oregon.

We hope you will join us in supporting the items noted above. If you have any questions regarding my comments, please feel free to reach out to me directly. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,



Jon Stark, CEO
Economic Development for Central Oregon