



Written Testimony of Sean Ward

Founder, Cyphra Autonomy

Before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

In Support of House Bill 5024

March 14, 2025

Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

My name is Sean Ward, and I am the Founder of Cyphra Autonomy, an alumni startup of the Oregon UAS Accelerator. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 5024, which funds Business Oregon and, in turn, the Oregon UAS Accelerator—an essential program that provided Cyphra Autonomy with the resources, mentorship, and industry connections needed to take our technology to the next level.

As a startup founder, I understand firsthand how difficult it is to secure the right support in the early stages of a deep-tech company. The Oregon UAS Accelerator was a game-changer for us. It gave us access to expert coaching, funding opportunities, and a strong network of mentors and industry partners. These resources allowed Cyphra Autonomy to refine our technology, secure critical business contracts in Oregon, and take meaningful steps toward commercialization.

But the impact of this program extends beyond just my company. The Oregon UAS Accelerator also created invaluable opportunities for student interns who worked alongside us. These students, many of whom came from Oregon universities and community colleges, gained real-world experience in autonomy, robotics, and artificial intelligence—fields that are shaping the future of industry. Their contributions were critical to our success, and in return, they gained skills that make them competitive in today's high-tech job market.

The continued funding of Business Oregon through House Bill 5024 is essential to ensuring that startups like Cyphra Autonomy, and the students who learn from and work with us, continue to have these opportunities. Without this investment, the ecosystem that enables companies like mine to grow and thrive could be put at risk.

I strongly urge the committee to support House Bill 5024 and ensure that the Oregon UAS Accelerator continues to foster deep-tech innovation, workforce development, and economic growth across the state. This program doesn't just support startups—it fuels

the entire innovation pipeline that keeps Oregon at the forefront of autonomous systems and robotics.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Oregon's technology and startup ecosystem.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean Ward

Founder/CEO, Cyphra Autonomy