

March 17, 2025

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Erik Andersson

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Marion County  
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City Manager  
City of Salem

The Honorable Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for Funding for the Oregon Business Development Department in HB 5024

Co-Chairs Woods, Gomberg and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of SEDCOR, the Strategic Economic Development Corporation, I am writing to voice our strong support for HB 5024, which appropriates General Funds to the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon).

SEDCOR focuses on supporting and growing traded sector businesses in the Mid-Willamette Valley Region of Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties. The key industries on which we focus, which include agriculture, food and beverage processing, wood products, aviation and technology, compete on an international scale. We are thankful for the technical assistance and financial resources available from Business Oregon that help our businesses to innovate, compete and grow. Last year, SEDCOR worked on expansion, retention and recruitment projects that will bring in over \$178 million investment to our region, creating 229 new jobs and generating future annual property tax revenue estimated at over \$3.26 million for our communities. All these projects benefited from Business Oregon programs such as the Enterprise Zone, Strategic Reserve and business financing.

Moreover, Business Oregon funding has helped SEDCOR launch two key initiatives, our Latino Microenterprise Development Program and the Launch Mid-Valley Regional Innovation Hub. The former program has provided training to over one hundred entrepreneurs seeking tools to start and grow their small businesses, and the latter has developed an ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Through the Hub, over \$3 million in public and private investment has been made to innovative businesses in the region.

We are grateful for the partnership of Business Oregon in our economic development efforts and urge you to support HB 5024 to fund the Department's resources.

Sincerely,



Erik Andersson, President