



March 17, 2025

Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic
Development
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

OTRADI is one of Oregon's Centers of Innovation Excellence. OTRADI is a non-profit institute funded primarily by the State of Oregon, under the umbrella of Business Oregon and the Oregon Innovation Council. OTRADI's mission is to fuel the economic development of Oregon's bioscience industry by enabling the translation of innovative research into products and companies that benefit human health and create high-wage jobs for Oregon.

RAIN Catalysts is a nonprofit entrepreneurship support organization that enables rural entrepreneurs in the Pacific Northwest to launch and scale impactful businesses. We work with founders, small businesses, and their communities to create supportive environments for business success and to connect them to education, training, and resources across the region. Our vision is to catalyze inclusive economic prosperity through entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Centers for Innovation Excellence initiative is critical for driving invention and innovation in Oregon. In the life sciences industry, we have partnered closely with OBI/OTRADI through the Biotech Collective—comprised of OBI/OTRADI, RAIN Catalysts, Oregon Entrepreneurs Network, and OHSU—to create opportunities for biotech companies to start and expand in Oregon and for the biotech workforce to find well-paying jobs locally. As federal funding for life sciences and the biotech industry diminishes or disappears, state-level funding for OTRADI as a Center for Innovation Excellence is especially crucial to maintain our momentum in establishing Oregon as a hub for life science innovation.

We are supportive of OTRADI/OBI's continued funding, and we look forward to a continued close partnership with OTRADI and OBI in the future. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Jagoda Brunette".

Rachel Jagoda Brunette
Chief Executive Officer
RAIN Catalysts
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503-310-4219