

Submitter: Joe Sky-Tucker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Transportation and Economic Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5024

Dear Co-Chairs Woods, Gomberg, and Members of the Subcommittee,

I am writing in strong support of Business Oregon's Technical Assistance for Underrepresented Businesses Program (TAP). The Governor's proposed \$4.8 million allocation is a critical investment in historically underserved small businesses across Oregon.

TAP's unique approach—partnering with community-embedded organizations—ensures culturally responsive, linguistically accessible, and geographically relevant support. The program's impact over the past year demonstrates its effectiveness:

1,930 clients received technical assistance, with 365 receiving 10+ hours of dedicated support.

Clients secured \$2.13 million in funding through loans, grants, and investments. 324 new businesses were launched, and 1,747 existing businesses received assistance.

371 clients accessed professional services, totaling 14,041 hours of support. Top industries served: food & beverage, professional services, retail, and construction.

Small businesses drive Oregon's economy. Expanding TAP ensures that entrepreneurs in economically distressed communities have the tools to thrive, strengthening our state's economic future.

I urge you to sustain—and, if possible, increase—funding for this vital program. Thank you for your time and consideration.