



**OREGON  
ENTREPRENEURS  
NETWORK**

March 18, 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.

The Oregon Entrepreneurs Network (OEN) is a 501(c) that builds and strengthens Oregon's early-stage, innovative, and high growth potential entrepreneurs through the provision of education, guidance, connections, and financial opportunities, to impel increasing economic impact throughout the region. We do this work in service of a vision of a robust, diverse, and collaborative thriving entrepreneurial economy across the state.

OEN is a proud partner of OBI/OTRADI on a number of entrepreneurial endeavors to support the statewide life and bioscience industry. We collaborated on a program called Angel Oregon Life & Bioscience (AOBIO) that is designed to support early-stage life and bioscience startups based in Oregon by offering investment-readiness education, connectivity within the local bioscience community, and the opportunity to receive an equity investment from local angel investors. Since 2022, this program has catalyzed over \$1.5 million of venture capital into a dozen local startups, creating high wage jobs and making Oregon a hub for life and bioscience innovation. Additionally, the AOBIO program is nationally recognized by the Small Business Administration (SBA) via a grant as a model for thoughtful and inclusive entrepreneurship in this industry sector. Through the SBA award, OBI/OTRADI and OEN along with other organizations created the Biotech Collective, which is raising awareness and investment into diversely founded life science companies while simultaneously engaging local investors on the benefits of investing in non-traditional founders and industries like bioscience.

Funding for CIEs including OBI/OTRADI is critical to the economic development of the state particularly in high growth, innovative, traded-sector businesses that produce thousands of living wage jobs. OBI/OTRADI provides an incubation space and programmatic support for companies creating life saving solutions that would be unaffordable for most of the founders

especially when facing the uncertainty of federal funding under the current presidential administration. OBI/OTRADI has consistently driven the efforts to collaborate statewide and through unique partnerships for the growth of Oregon's life and bioscience entrepreneurs and community.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Turano". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Cara Turano, President & Executive Director  
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