

March 18, 2025

Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg  
Members of the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee  
Joint Ways & Means Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Woods, Gomberg and members of the subcommittee,

**Re: \$4.8 million - Business Technical Assistance**

This letter is in support of Business Oregon's Technical Assistance for Underrepresented Businesses Program (TAP). We advocate for the continued funding of this program and are reassured to see \$4.8 million for this program directed to Business Oregon in the Governor's Request Budget. These funds are critical in reaching historically underrepresented and underserved small businesses.

The TAP's unique approach in state funded small business support relies on working with community embedded organizations to provide culturally sensitive, linguistically appropriate, and geographically aligned resources to small businesses. With small business as the backbone of the Oregon economy, over the last year alone, this approach has resulted in:

- 1,930 clients received technical assistance, with 365 clients receiving 10 or more hours of dedicated support.
- Clients secured \$2,134,464 in capital through loans, grants, and equity investments.
- 324 new businesses were created, while 1,747 existing businesses received support.
- 371 clients accessed professional services.
- A total of 14,041 technical assistance hours were provided.
- The top four industries served were food & beverage, professional services, retail, and construction.

As you consider the Business Oregon budget, we strongly urge you to maintain, and if possible increase, funding for the Business Technical Assistance Program. This vital initiative gives Oregonians from economically distressed communities the opportunity to maximize their economic potential and add to the vibrancy of Oregon's economy.

Sincerely,

### Community Partner Organizations

