



Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

...our business is helping your business

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

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March 17, 2025

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 5024 – Funding the Oregon Business Development Department

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and our 455 business members serving Coos Bay, North Bend, Charleston, and the surrounding areas, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 5024, which pertains to the financial administration of the Oregon Business Development Department.

Rationale for Supporting HB 5024:

- **Economic Development:** Adequate funding for the Oregon Business Development Department is essential for supporting initiatives that drive economic growth, job creation, and business innovation across the state.
- **Community Investment:** The department's programs often provide critical resources and support to local businesses, enhancing community development and prosperity.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** The declaration of an emergency underscores the urgency of this funding, ensuring that the department can continue its vital work without interruption. legiscan.com+1

We believe that the passage of HB 5024 is crucial for maintaining and enhancing Oregon's economic vitality. We respectfully urge the committee to approve this bill, reinforcing the state's commitment to business development and community well-being.

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The Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP) has played a crucial role in strengthening Oregon's manufacturing sector, significantly boosting employment, productivity, and economic growth. As part of the NIST Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, OMEP provides expert consulting and data-driven analysis to enhance the competitiveness of small to mid-sized manufacturing businesses.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication to Oregon's economic future.

Sincerely,



Rosey Thomas
Executive Director
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