

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

March 18, 2025

Chairs Woods and Gomberg, and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development

The Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio) supports HB 5024 and the Business Oregon Budget requests. Business Oregon is an important partner for Oregon Bio in developing and growing our state's biotech ecosystem.

Oregon Bio is Oregon's voice for the growth of our bioscience industry, which contributes a total statewide economic output of \$21.1 billion according to our latest economic impact report (<https://www.oregonbio.org/reports>). Our members are involved in cutting-edge research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, and environmental, biological, and medical technologies. They range from entrepreneurial startups developing a first product to large multinational therapeutic and device companies. We also represent the state's biotech research institutions, service providers to the industry, and academic centers of learning. Oregon Bio continually seeks ways to support sustainability and growth in life science, bioscience, biotechnology and medical device manufacturing sectors here in Oregon.

Business Oregon dedicates resources to bioscience as one of its "Targeted Sectors." Our shared vision for growth in the biotech sector relies on the expertise of the Business Oregon team and a variety of programs, including support for the Oregon Innovation Council and the Oregon Innovation Plan. These initiatives are key drivers for directing public and private investment in our Centers for Innovative Excellence, and grants received by entrepreneurs and their companies through mechanisms like Small Business Innovation & Research Grants (SBIR). Business Oregon's global market entry support, including STEP grants, export assistance services, and international business development programs, further strengthens the ability of Oregon businesses to scale globally, connect with new markets, and increase long-term economic sustainability. To that end, we ask your committee to support HB 5024.

Additionally, the Oregon Bioscience Incubator (OTRADI/OBI) is one of our state's greatest successes in developing start-ups and early-stage companies while also drawing significant private and federal funding to support home-grown innovation and retain talent in Oregon. As Centers of Innovative Excellence, both OTRADI/OBI and the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI) continue to provide critical support to bioscience companies as they navigate growth opportunities.

This year, we strongly support increased funding for these Centers for Innovative Excellence, the Oregon Bioscience Incubator, and SBIR Grants. Continued investment in these programs is essential to maintaining Oregon's leadership in biotech innovation.



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Oregon Bio also supports several of Business Oregon's Policy Option Packages that will spur investment, infrastructure and workforce training for our biotech community, including:

- **POP 501, Brownfields Redevelopment**
- **POP 502, Brownfields Revitalization**
- **POP 114, Small Business Sustainability Fund**
- **POP 115, Special Public Works Fund**
- **POP 118, Industrial Site Loan Fund**

We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with Business Oregon into the next biennium.

Sincerely,

Liisa Bozinovic

Oregon Bioscience Association

Executive Director