



P.O. Box 1938
Roseburg, OR 97470

(541) 672-6728 Phone
(541) 672-7011 Fax

Dear Co-Chair Senator Jones and Co-Chair Representative Gombard, and Joint Committee members,

My name is Kem Todd, and I am writing in support of HB5024. I work at CCD Business Development, the first economic development district in Oregon, catering to Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties. I'm reaching out from Roseburg. Representative Skarlatos and I share a personal bond with this rural community as UCC college alumni—Go Riverhawks!—and we both participate in the state's largest Veteran's Day parade.

CCD has been responding to the economic development needs of our region for 55 years. In 2021, thanks to funding from Business Oregon Rural Opportunity Initiative (ROI), we established our Technical Assistance Department to close gaps and overcome obstacles for small business owners in rural SW Oregon. Why Technical Assistance? There are great resources in our ecosystem that need a bridge built to be accessible by small business owners.

During COVID, CCD took initiative to distribute five rounds of CARES Act funding in our region, Jackson and Josephine counties, along with a statewide round. Notably, three of these rounds specifically targeted low-to moderate-income small business owners, many of whom received their only CARES Act funds with our technical assistance help with the application process.

In 2021, Oregon experienced a 20% increase in small business registrations. I often say that COVID prompted small businesses to get legit and register with Secretary of State Oregon and exposed them to capital infusion. Our Technical Assistance helps with both.

Funding from Business Oregon is vital for our boots-on-the-ground efforts delivery services and programs to a diverse population. Among our 400 technical assistance clients over the past 4 years most are micro-enterprises, defined as having five or fewer employees and 80% are single LLCs. These businesses are particularly vulnerable. Since they are often consumed by day-to-day operations, Business Oregon technical assistance is essential in connecting clients to Childcare infrastructure grants, Workforce programs, commercial kitchens, professional services, tax and bookkeeping help, and lenders. Not handing them a brochure or website link but working side-by-side with them.

Business Oregon funding is not just financial support; it enhances CCD's capacity, as we meet monthly with other technical assistance providers to collaborate, creating shortcuts to services for our clients. It has been transformative for small businesses and allows them to stay vital in our communities.

Thank you for your time,

Kemberly Todd
Technical Assistance Coordinator

Mission Statement

To encourage economic development, diversify local economies, support industry, and enhance quality of life for all in the region.