

Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College

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RE: Support for SB 569 -1

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 569 with the -1 amendments. At Lewis and Clark Law School, we take great pride in the achievements of our Small Business Legal Clinic (SBLC), which has a proven track record of assisting economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs and business owners throughout Oregon. As the Dean of the law school, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact our clinic has on individuals who start and maintain Oregon businesses. The work we do allows individuals to achieve their dreams of launching a business while providing essential legal education and services that promote stability and growth for business owners and communities.

Since opening its doors in 2006 after receiving a \$100,000 grant from the City of Portland, the Small Business Legal Clinic (SBLC) at Lewis and Clark Law School has been instrumental in delivering comprehensive legal services to entrepreneurs and small businesses. By assisting with entity formation, intellectual property protection, and regulatory compliance, the clinic establishes the essential legal frameworks necessary for business success and stability. Our approach supports clients from the startup phase through all stages of their growth, not only meeting immediate legal needs but also providing sustained support by connecting our clients with ongoing legal and financial services. This strategy has proven effective in fostering long-term stability and growth for the businesses we serve, which in turn provides economic benefits to regions across Oregon.

For example, we assisted a company in The Dalles secure trademark protection for their brand in preparation for selling their product nationwide. Similarly, we helped a Bend-based business secure trademark protection for their advertising services. We have supported Oregon artists, including a musician in Seaside, for whom we drafted a licensing agreement allowing her songs to be used in a film. We also protected the interests of a dog trainer in Pendleton by drafting a contract and liability waiver to ensure the sustainability of their business. We have helped painters, roofers, and other trades across Oregon set up their businesses, draft client contracts and subcontractor agreements, and obtain certification through the Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID). These legal services not only promote growth but also prevent future legal challenges that could threaten a business's survival.

The passage of SB 569 -1 would provide essential funding to expand the SBLC's reach, enabling us to serve more entrepreneurs, particularly in underserved and rural areas, while also offering law students invaluable hands-on training in business law and service to our Oregon communities. This investment strengthens Oregon's entrepreneurial economy by fostering innovation, long-term growth, and cultivating legal expertise that aligns with the values and needs of our communities.

We respectfully urge the committee to support this critical funding, ensuring the continuation and expansion of our ability to serve and educate entrepreneurs and budding business owners throughout Oregon.

Sincerely,



Alicia Ouellette
Jordan D. Schnitzer Dean
Lewis & Clark Law School

