

<b>Date:</b>	<b>March 20th, 2025</b>
<b>To:</b>	Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
<b>From:</b>	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Justin Low
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Support – HB 5024 (POP 115, POP 118, POP 501, and POP 502)</b>

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of Business Oregon’s budget bill, SB 5024. For the record, my name is Justin Low, and I am a Legislative Affairs Manager offering testimony on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). AOC is a non-partisan member organization that advocates on issues that unite all county governing bodies and have an impact on county functions, governance, budgets, and services.

Business Oregon is an essential partner to counties in economic development, infrastructure financing, incentive program administration, and much more. The support and programming that Business Oregon provides are critical to attracting business and jobs to each corner of our state. Since lottery dollars are always in short supply and there is great competition for these funds—these are AOC’s priority budget requests that will help support county economic development needs:

- POP 115: \$50 million in lottery bond proceeds for the Special Public Works Fund, which provides loans and grants to communities to build or rebuild essential public infrastructure.
- POP 118: \$10 million in lottery bond proceeds for a new Industrial Site Loan Fund, supporting new and existing development of industrial lands for economic development-related activity.
- POP 501: \$10 million in lottery bond proceeds for the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund.
- POP 502: \$5 million for the Brownfields Property Revitalization Fund.
- The Governor’s proposal of \$10 million in targeted funding for county fairgrounds infrastructure and operations.
- The Governor’s proposal of \$100 million to capitalize a new Housing Infrastructure Project Fund for grants to municipalities for infrastructure projects that support housing at specified densities and affordability levels, and an associated \$5.2 million in lottery funds to support debt service and the cost of six positions to administer this new program.

Each of these policy option package investments will support long-term economic growth through business and job expansion in Oregon counties. AOC urges your support for these budget proposals.

Best,

Justin Low  
Legislative Affairs Manager for Governance and Revenue