

ARONORA

21 March 2025

Representative Daniel Nguyen
House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Norah Verbout, and I am the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Aronora, Inc., a Portland-based biotech company dedicated to developing novel therapies for blood clotting diseases. Founded in 2009 as a spin-off from OHSU, Aronora has grown from an early-stage startup to a clinical-stage biotech company with multiple promising therapies in development. To date, we have raised \$64 million, primarily in critical funding from the NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Our next phase of growth requires additional investment, and we are actively seeking venture capital and strategic partnerships. I write today in strong support of House Bill 2417, funding for the Oregon Translational Research and Development Institute (OTRADI) and the Oregon Bioscience Incubator (OBI), which have played a crucial role in fostering the growth of Aronora and Oregon's bioscience sector.

OTRADI is one of Oregon's Centers of Innovation Excellence. OTRADI is a non-profit institute funded primarily by the State of Oregon, under the umbrella of Business Oregon and the Oregon Innovation Council. OTRADI's mission is to fuel the economic development of Oregon's bioscience industry by enabling the translation of innovative research into products and companies that benefit human health and create high-wage jobs for Oregon.

One of the defining strengths of Oregon's startup ecosystem is the sense of community among local biotech companies. Those of us who have trained here want to stay here, and we have built our companies with that commitment in mind. However, access to suitable lab and office space remains one of the most significant challenges for growing bioscience startups. When I joined Aronora in 2010, we struggled to find a location that met our specialized laboratory needs. The available options either required significant capital investment on our part or were not suited for applied biotechnology. That changed in 2013 when OBI began offering space to early-stage companies like ours. Aronora was one of OBI's very first client companies, and we worked closely with OBI/OTRADI design lab space that enabled us to

conduct the foundational research behind two of our Investigational New Drug applications. Just as importantly, the incubator provided office space where our team could manage the administrative and operational demands of a biotech startup.

After more than five years at OBI, we have since expanded into a dedicated facility in downtown Portland, continuing our mission to develop life-saving therapies. None of this would have been possible without the support of OTRADI and the OBI. These resources are not just helpful—they are essential for bioscience startups to survive and thrive in Oregon. With recent NIH budget cuts threatening critical funding streams, the role of state-backed incubators like OBI is more important than ever.

I strongly urge you to support House Bill 2417. This investment will ensure that Oregon remains a competitive hub for bioscience innovation, attracting talent, creating high-wage jobs, and bringing groundbreaking medical advancements to market. We look forward to a continued close partnership with OTRADI and OBI. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Norah G Verbout
Director of Strategic Partnerships

Aronora, Inc.
1818 SW 4th Ave, Suite 102
Portland, OR 97211
Norah.verbout@aronorabio.com
503-964-0250