



Main Office
717 N Killingsworth Court
Portland, OR 97217
503.797.7222
portlandoic.org
@POIC

May 9, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 5531 and the POIC Sunrise Cultural Workforce Center

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Nosse, and members of the Committee,

POIC serves 3,000 youth and their families every year with **job training, career opportunities, education and wraparound services.**

We're asking for the final \$5 Million Dollars we need to build the POIC Sunrise Cultural Workforce Center in Gresham.

This \$5 Million DOLLAR request is 11% of an overall Capital Campaign of \$47.5 Million

This shovel-ready project is matched by over \$40 Million in public and private investments, including:

- \$3 Million in Congressionally directed spending
- \$2.3 Million from the City of Gresham
- charitable foundations, corporate sponsors, and private loans

For 3 years, our architects and contractors have been working hard. We break ground in February of 2026 and have a planned move-in date of January 2028.

The Sunrise Cultural Workforce Center includes:

- Training space that meets industry standards
- A permanent home for Rosemary Anderson High School
- An Innovation lab
- A health clinic operated by Providence, supporting our healthcare workforce training program

All on a 2-acre lot, right on the MAX Line at Rockwood (188th Ave and East Burnside).

We are thankful for our East County legislative delegation for their strong support – Senator Gorsek, Rep. Ruiz, Rep. Hudson – and many others including Commissioner Vince Jones-Dixon and the City of Gresham.

This allocation will leverage broader investments in East Multnomah County and the City of Gresham's economic and community investments in Rockwood, including:

- \$500,000 in POIC's culinary training center at 185th Ave and East Burnside



Main Office
717 N Killingsworth Court
Portland, OR 97217
503.797.7222
portlandoic.org
@POIC

- the Rockwood Market Hall and more than \$37 Million in planned investments in the Rockwood-West Gresham urban renewal district through 2029.

For 20 years I've worked with gang impacted youth throughout Multnomah County. POIC is successful because we meet people where they're at. We're asking the state of Oregon to meet the need in the community where they're at.

Rockwood is Oregon's poorest neighborhood, with a 45% poverty rate. Gresham is among the state's most diverse communities with over 90 languages spoken at home.

POIC's 57 years of experience tells us that the best community safety plan is a good job; the best violence prevention program is a good job.

I urge you to leverage POIC's 57-year track record, our 89% Match, and the local investments already made in and coming to Rockwood to turn urgent workforce needs into opportunity, and overturn decades of underinvestment with this one-time, once-in-a-generation investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julia Mitchell
Chief Operating Officer
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)