

February 13, 2026

Senator Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Nosse, Co-Chair
Capitol Construction Subcommittee
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Multnomah County Support for Community Economic Coalition Request -
Burnside CEC Hub**

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

The Multnomah County Commission strongly urges you to support the Community Economic Coalition's (CEC) \$1,000,000 request to support the purchase of a near-vacant building on East Burnside Street in Portland for conversion into the **Burnside CEC Hub**.

The Black, Hispanic, Native American and Philippine-American Chambers that together make up the CEC are well-established organizations that have worked in our communities for decades to support entrepreneurship and economic development. They have a proven track record of delivery, enabling businesses from some of our most economically distressed communities to grow and thrive.

Supporting small and micro-businesses has never been more important. Our state is facing economic challenges, and when businesses go under, families have a harder time putting food on the table and making rent. In the end, that puts pressure on public services and costs taxpayers far more than it would to help those businesses stay open.

The **Burnside CEC Hub** would enable the CEC to consolidate its functions, improve its ability to deliver business and technical support, activate space in a building that has been severely underutilized for several years and bring 50 FTE living wage jobs to the area, increasing foot traffic and boosting overall economic vitality.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners is deeply committed to supporting grassroots, community centered economic development. This project meets several of our strategic goals and we are proud to support it.

Sincerely,
Multnomah County Board of Commissioners



Jessica Vega Pederson
Chair



Julia Brim-Edwards
Commissioner District 3



Shannon Singleton
Commissioner District 2



Vince Jones-Dixon
Commissioner District 4

Submitted by: Tom Powers tom.powers@multco.us