



City of Portland

Office of the City Council
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Portland, OR, 97204

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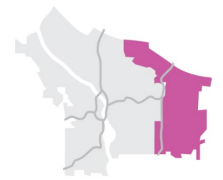
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City Councilor, District 1 Candace Avalos

(She/Her) Councilor.Avalos@portlandoregon.gov



February 13th, 2026

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Capital Construction Committee,

I write in strong support of Community Economic Coalition (CEC)'s request for \$1 million in Lottery Funds towards acquisition costs for the CEC Burnside Hub project. Through this investment, CEC will transform an underused property in the heart of Portland's growing Inner Eastside into a mixed-use business development campus dedicated to helping entrepreneurs reach the next level with their businesses. CEC has a demonstrated record of helping businesses from some of our most economically distressed communities grow and thrive, and this \$1 million will unlock significant economic activity that benefits our whole state.

As the City Councilor for Portland's most diverse communities, I've seen the difference CEC members make in our local economy. The Black, Hispanic, Native American, and Philippine-American Chambers offer their expertise and resources to businesses owners who often face barriers to accessing capital, new markets, and connections with key stakeholders. The CEC Burnside 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 footfall and boosting overall economic vitality.

I understand that governments at all levels are facing budget shortfalls and difficult macroeconomic conditions, meaning every decision about public funding this short session comes with increased scrutiny.

Given Oregon's economic challenges, the CEC Burnside Hub is exactly the kind of project we need to invest in right now. 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.

I urge you to support this request for \$1 million in Lottery Funds.



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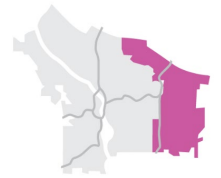
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Sincerely,

Councilor Candace Avalos



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