



Testimony in Support of Williams & Russell Business Hub

Andrew Colas – Colas Construction

Ways & Means Capital Construction Subcommittee

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Senator Girod, Representative Nosse, and Committee Members—My name is Andrew Colas and I'm CEO of Colas Construction.

I request your support for \$15.96 million for the Williams & Russell Business Hub in Portland's Albina neighborhood.

The Business Hub will have affordable office and retail space for small businesses, community event space, and business-support organizations providing technical assistance and professional services to entrepreneurs in Portland and across Oregon.

The Williams & Russell Business Hub is the economic cornerstone of a broader community driven redevelopment of the historic Hill Block that also includes a community plaza, two homeownership developments, and 85 affordable rental apartments with onsite childcare.

According to a [January 2026 ECONorthwest report](#), the Business Hub during construction will create 205 jobs, \$19 million in labor income, and \$46 million in economic output, and during annual operations will create 145 permanent jobs, \$14 million in labor income, and \$27 million in economic output.

During a time of economic uncertainty in Oregon, the Business Hub will support small businesses, wealth creation, more jobs, and additional tax revenue.

Thank you for your support of this critical investment for Oregon's economic future.