



*Business For a Better Portland and Portland Incubator Experiment are pleased to present this letter on behalf of over 80 Oregonian entrepreneurs and others who urge the legislature to support Oregon's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem.*

June 6, 2019

President Peter Courtney  
Speaker Tina Kotek  
Co-Chairs Johnson, Rayfield, and Steiner Hayward:

The 87 undersigned business representatives write in support of the Oregon Growth Fund (OGF) which is included in Business Oregon's budget. We request that you increase the proposed OGF funding of \$629,000 to the \$2 million included in the Governor's recommended budget. The OGF supports underserved entrepreneurs, specifically women, minority, rural, and veteran-led companies.

As startup entrepreneurs, we represent the state's economic future. We create jobs, catalyze innovation, and bring dollars to our state in the form of additional, outside investment. Entrepreneurship by underrepresented founders offers the opportunity to increase the percentage of business ownership, close the wealth gap, and provide social impact to our communities. It is critical that programs like OGF continue and grow if we are to have a stable economy that benefits all, especially those historically left behind.

Since it began investing relatively small dollar amounts in 2014, the OGF has committed over \$2.9 million to 27 funds, resulting in over 60 companies receiving investments they otherwise would not have. The leverage on these investments has ranged from 1:1 to 25:1. With additional funding, we can increase our impact and reach, and strengthen our state's economy.

Recipients of OGF investments include Wildfang, a nationally recognized brand that has elevated our state's entrepreneurial visibility and changed the national culture; Portland favorites like Garden Bar that support our local food systems; and companies like Lumen that bring affordable and accessible learning resources to the education industry to improve student outcomes.

[Research shows](#) that a healthy, thriving startup ecosystem is imperative for the growth, sustainability, and stability of our local economies. Investments by OGF represent a commitment to these values.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and your commitment to Oregon's economic vitality.

Sincerely,

Alana Joy Kylow  
*Creatv*

Alex Trevor Devine  
*Narrative*

Amanda Wilson  
*VOXAPOD, Inc*

Angel Venable Jones  
*Dimple and a Smirk LLC*

Angela Jackson  
*Portland Seed Fund*

Anil Kumar  
*RxHomeTest*

Ankoma Memory  
*Narrative Creative LLC*

Annie Calies

Astrid Scholz  
*Armillaria LLC, D/b/a/  
Sphaera*

Ben McKinley  
*Cascade Web  
Development*

Brad Heller  
*Puppet, Reflect*

Brad Malsin  
*Beam Development*

Cambra Kaos

Carl Hickerson  
*Trestle*

Darren Buckner  
*Workfrom Inc*

David Heller  
*Reimbi LLC*

Dr. Liz Powell  
*Dr. Liz Powell  
International LLC*

Dylan Boyd  
*R/GA Ventures*

Edgar Navas  
*Cliqa Inc.*

Edward Irby  
*DX WORKS LLC*

Emma Vick  
*Envick*

Erica Escalante  
*The Arrow Coffeehouse*

Erik M Gordon  
*Maximilian Consulting*

Flora Worley  
*Let's Computer, LLC*

Genevieve LeMarchal  
*FoundersPad VC*

Heather Ellis  
*OTRADI*

Holly Files  
*LaunchPoint Group*

Ian Frantz  
*ProcessIO LLC*

J. Corey Schmid  
*Seven Peaks Ventures*

Jackie Murphy

Jake Kuramoto

James Noonan

Janine Namgung  
*Catalogue Studio  
(CTLG LLC)*

Jason Glaspey  
*Department Interactive*

Jennifer Fox  
*Oregon Bioscience  
Incubator*

Jennifer Johnson  
*Trestle*

Jennifer Weed  
*Caffeinated Web Studio*

Kristine Campbell  
*Hailio*

Mitch Daugherty  
*Built Oregon*

Jesse Cooke  
*Relative Path*

Leonardo Ochoa  
*Dorsum, Inc.*

Nicole Schmidt  
*Krowdsourced*

Jonathan McGuire

Linda Weston  
*Rapporto*

Paige Hendrix Buckner  
*ClientJoy*

Jonathan Minori  
*Caravel*

Luann Abrams  
*FoundersPad*

Patrick Ezell  
*Bridgetown AI*

Josh Carter  
*WeWork Labs*

Marcelino J. Alvarez  
*Uncorked Studios*

Patrick Maloney  
*Occam Advisors*

Juan Barraza  
*Latino Founders*

Maret Thatcher  
*bevel space*

Peat Bakke

Julia A. Alena  
*ReelDx*

Margaret Davis  
*Paxi Skin Care LLC*

Rajashree Baskaran  
*Raji Baskaran LLC*

Kaitlin Christine  
*Gabbi*

Mark Ace  
*Self employed  
consultant*

Rebecca Alexander  
*AllGo*

Katie Chaney  
*brickpdx*

Mark Grimes  
*NedSpace LLC*

Rick Turoczy  
*PIE*

Katrina Scotto di Carlo

Mark Lewis  
*Prrl Labs, LLC*

Ryan Carson  
*Treehouse*

Kevin Steigerwald  
*Jama Software*

Marquita Jaramillo

Ryan Else  
*Roadster Capital*

Kiki Teal Littlestar  
*The Perlene Limited*

Micah Elconin  
*Season to Taste Inc*

Sada Naegelin  
*De Las Mías*

Kim Allchurch-Flick  
*John L. Scott Real  
Estate*

Michael Richardson  
*Xandr*

Shari Chin

Kristen Gallagher  
*Edify*

Mirco Fiaschi  
*Letzdoit*

Shawn Meyer

Kristin Wolff  
*thinkers + doers, llc*

Steve Thompson  
*Health Technology  
Collaborative*

Sylvia Salazar  
*Tono Latino (Green  
Lemon, LLC)*

Timothy Sawyer  
*South Tabor Urban  
Design*

William Francis Piwonka  
*Exterro*

Tara Horn  
*The Praxis Department*

Tracy Mehoke  
*Development Matters*

Zach Blank

**Link Reference:**

<https://www.kauffman.org/currents/2019/05/a-homegrown-economy-starts-with-entrepreneurs>

**Addendum:**

**Funds that have received OGF funding**

TiE Tap Fund	Bend Venture Conference 2017
Ascent Funding Loan 2014	BVC Social Impact Fund 2017
Craft3 Loan 2014	Willamette Angel Conference 2017
Cascade Angels 2015	Community Lending Works Loan extension
OEN Angel Oregon 2015	Ascent Fund Loan extension
Bend Venture Conference 2015	XXcelerate Fund Loan 2018
Roseburg Angel Investor Network 2015	OTBC Rural Startup Challenge
Willamette Angel Conference 2015	Oregon Enterprise Blockchain Venture Studio
Community Lending Works Loan 2015	Bend Venture Conference 2018
MESO Loan 2015	BVC Social Impact Fund 2018
Elevate Inclusive Fund	Roseburg Investor Network 2018
OEN Angel Oregon 2016	Angel Food 2019
Bend Venture Conference 2016	Founders Pad Fund II
BVC Social Impact Fund 2016	Bend Venture Conference 2019
Roseburg Angel Investor Network 2016	BVC Social Impact Fund 2019
Willamette Angel Conference 2016	
Cascade Angels 2017	
OEN Angel Oregon 2017	

**Some of the companies that have received investment from these funds:**

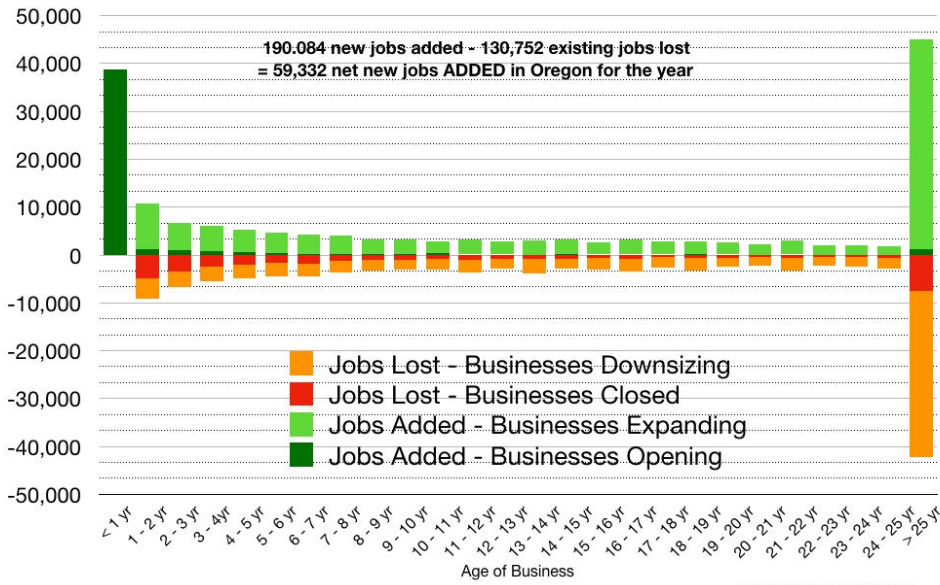
RFPIO	Zumbula	Commloan
Hemex Health	NemaMetrix	Diatomix
Hubb	Topbox	Cod3Simulator
The Dyrt	Wildfang	Agility Robotics
Garden Bar	InvestiPro	Moonshadow Mobile
Scout Military	Rigado	Wofe's Customs
Heritage-Laboratories	OpConnect	Hawaiian Doggy Style
PacLab Analytics	Green Theme	Splish
Chelsea Deloney	International	HoneyComb
Celage	OCO Corporation	Corporation
Lumen	Perfect	Simple Screens Corp.
Odysys	Handful	SpaceView
LeadMethod	Talkoot	Collexion

Madorra  
American Procurement  
Services

Bent Enterprises  
All About Flagging  
Yeti Snack

Sheild Catering

### Total Jobs ADDED and LOST in OREGON for the Twelve Months ended March 2018, by AGE of Business



### Survival Rates (%) of NEW Small Businesses Established in OREGON Each Year: 1994 to 2018

