



Austin Entrepreneurship Program, College of Business
Oregon State University, 104 Weatherford Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-1701
Tel: 541.713.8040 | Fax: 541.713.8052 | Internet: <http://osuaep.info>

February 4, 2008

Senator Ron Wyden
405 East 8th Avenue
Suite 2020
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Senator Wyden:

I am pleased to write you in support of the Corvallis and Benton County new business incubator, the Business Enterprise Center (the BEC). I will leave it to others to articulate the BEC's many successes over the past two decades in helping start up companies develop a market presence; grow; create jobs, income, and an expanded tax base; and help foster the next generation of start up companies. If ever there was an example of a virtuous economic model in operation, it is the BEC.

I am writing to request your help in assuring the BEC's future and in helping the BEC expand its range of activities so it can more effectively serve the region and the State. As the Director of the Austin Entrepreneurship Program in the College of Business at Oregon State University, I am working hard to foster and facilitate entrepreneurship across the University and to support the transition of University innovation into commercial activity.

I never cease to be amazed by the wealth of innovations generated at Oregon State University. One of my challenges is to help propel these innovations into the marketplace as start up companies. I work in partnership with the College of Business, the College of Engineering, the Office of Technology Transfer, and individual faculty members in Agriculture, Science, Forestry, and Health and Human Sciences. Within two or at most three years, I expect to be seeing at least 8 new companies emerging from Oregon State University research and innovation each year.

Where will these new companies go? Early in their lives, they will need incubation - support and nurturing to help refine their market potential, reach profitability and grow. The BEC is close to capacity now and is expanding each month. We, that is Corvallis and the region, desperately need additional incubation resources, both in size and in scope. I'm currently working with the market development of an OSU developed and patented probiotic food additive. For this concept to succeed as a company, they will need wet lab space, and right now neither the BEC nor the region have commercially available wet lab space.

Over the past two decades, the supporters of the BEC – the City of Corvallis, Benton County, local corporations, and civic minded citizens have all contributed heavily in



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resources and in personal time to make the BEC successful. All of us who are committed to the BEC and to local economic development see the opportunity to now take the BEC to the next level. We have the pipeline of young companies; we have the leadership and managerial capability; we are looking to you to help secure the financial resources to expand the BEC through additional square footage and new facilities including wet lab space.

The BEC exists in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Most of our competitors both domestically and overseas benefit from significant governmental support. I trust that you feel the urgency of the BEC's position; that you value the many returns that the BEC has provided to the region and the State; and that you will vigorously support the BEC's initiatives for moving forward.

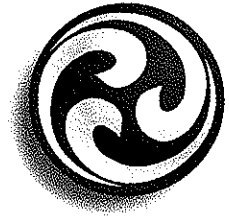
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chris

R. Christopher Klemm, Ph.D.
Director
Austin Entrepreneurship Program

ONAMI
OREGON NANOSCIENCE AND
MICROTECHNOLOGIES INSTITUTE



February 1, 2008

Bill Ford
Executive Director
Business Enterprise Center
1965 SW Airport Rd.
Corvallis, OR 97333

Dear Bill,

Thank you for including me in your ongoing regional economic development efforts. Several years ago you asked me to be a reviewer for your Business plan and I was happy to do that. As I said then and still believe, your vision aligns well with both the 2020 vision plan for Corvallis and the regional innovation-dependent economic development strategy. Since that time, however, many of us have become more sensitive to a lack of accessible wet-lab space other than that found here at ONAMI, which is limited for academic/national laboratory research and development collaborations with our commercialization partner companies.

There is no doubt that our region would benefit from the creation of accessible and affordable infrastructure for technology startup companies. Several of our commercialization partner companies working in the areas of medical products, nanomaterials chemistry and biofuels production will need that kind of space in order to grow. Just as Oregon and Benton County are in a better position because of the shovel-ready site initiative and other efforts, there would be great benefit in having local wet lab space. It could make the difference between keeping the startup companies in the area close to the research university or losing them to another area that is better prepared to support them.

I wish you the best in your endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Rung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Skip" being more prominent than the last name "Rung".

Robert D. "Skip" Rung
President and Executive Director

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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February 1, 2008

Bill Ford
Executive Director
Business Enterprise Center
1965 SW Airport Rd.
Corvallis, OR 97333

Dear Bill,

LBCC and the Business Enterprise Center have been partners for over 15 years and our mutual goal has been the ongoing regional economic development of Corvallis, Benton County, and the surrounding areas. Both of our organizations are working towards the 2020 vision plan for Corvallis and the regional innovation-dependent economic development strategy.

A critical need has developed over the last decade and that is the need for accessible wet-lab space for high-tech companies. Our region's economic development would benefit greatly from the creation of accessible and affordable infrastructure for technology startup companies.

I wish you the best in your efforts to build the needed infrastructure in Benton County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'a' followed by a stylized, scribbled name.

Alan S. Fudge,
Director, Small Business Development Center