



March 27, 2017

House Committee on Economic Development & Trade; c/o Representative Ann Lininger, Chair

RE: HB 2078

The Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio) represents an estimated \$10.3 billion of total economic activity in Oregon, including over 46,000 jobs and linked to \$340 million in tax and fee revenues for the State and local governments. Moreover, our industry is diverse in its geographic area as well as its current workforce. 49% of bioscience companies reside outside of the Portland area and nearly every county across the state is home to a bioscience entity. Today, 47% of our workforce is female, with 22% represented by minorities. Our average wage in private bioscience is over \$74,000 which is 51% greater than the statewide average for private sector employment. With \$3.7 billion in exports, bioscience is bringing new money to the state and is a growing economic sector.

Perhaps no other sector is as closely linked to innovation, research and development as the life-sciences and biotech industry. Our industry is the inflection point that moves cutting-edge breakthroughs in medical devices, therapeutic drugs and digital health economy from idea to commercialization. One critical component of our industry's recent success here in Oregon is our R&D tax credit. Continual investments in R&D are the number one driver of our industry adding jobs to our diverse workforce here in Oregon and infusing new capital into our state.

However, research jobs can be highly transient and this type of activity can be performed virtually anywhere and companies often decide to grow based on the local ecosystem for biotechnology. Other states are working to attract the same long-term, high-paying jobs and capital investments that Oregon Bio targets because they generate valuable revenue for state and local governments. This is especially true for states like Oregon that are highly dependent on personal income taxes to fund important public services and programs. Simply put, Oregon needs every tool possible to keep the great jobs we have and attract new ones to this valuable sector. We are fortunate to have a growing biotech community fueled by private and public investment to leverage, but we cannot lose our best incentives. Particular the R&D tax credit, which requires continual investment in workforce for recipients to maintain eligibility for the tax credit.

Please join Oregon Bio's support of HB 2858.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise McCarty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denise" being more prominent and the last name "McCarty" written in a more compact, connected style.

Denise McCarty, Executive Director