



GREATER PORTLAND INC
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April 20, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: REGIONAL SOLUTIONS 2017-19 BUDGET REQUEST

Dear Co-chairs Senator Johnson and Representative Gomberg, and Members of the committee,

I'm writing to relay Greater Portland Inc's support for the Regional Solutions budget request of \$11 million in lottery bond proceeds for 2017-19. Continuation of these critical resources will ensure that communities across Oregon have access to a coordinated set of tools and programs that have proven to be effective when leveraged.

As the regional economic development entity for the Portland-metro, Greater Portland Inc (GPI) understands the keystone role partnerships play in advancing an economy that works for everyone. In the last two years, GPI and the Metro Regional Solutions Center have aligned on strategic priorities and worked closely to focus on projects that spur job creation and investments—from supporting the growth of health science R&D to an intentional focus on access to living-wage jobs in underserved areas—GPI and Metro Regional Solutions have been in lock step on prioritizing economic prosperity for all.

Approval of the \$11 million funding proposed from both HB5025 and SB5530 would signal that the state remains a committed partner in economic development. I often say that economic development is a team sport—it takes a collection of willing and capable partners to achieve outcomes that improve the lives of the Oregonians we're serving. Regional Solutions is a model example of a centralized, coordinated economic development approach, and the Metro RS Center is a solid partner in our region.

I respectfully request your support for the Regional Solutions funding and look forward to building on our partnership with the state.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet LaBar", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Janet LaBar
President and CEO