



MARK MEEK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 40

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DATE: February 9, 2018
TO: House Committee on Business and Labor
FROM: Representative Mark Meek
SUBJECT: Support for HB 4128

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing House Bill 4128 today. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and play a critical role in supporting our communities, which is why I am proud to support this bill.

HB 4128 will help more of Oregon's small businesses grow. Local governments across our state are setting aspirational goals to utilize more firms that have a COBID certification, ensuring that more small businesses owned by women, minorities, and veterans are given a fair shot to be successful. The COBID certification helps these firms gain access to capital and avenues for growth that may otherwise have been inaccessible.

But many of these small businesses are losing their COBID status because of the success they've achieved in the marketplace. As a small business owner I believe we should be rewarding our state's entrepreneurs for creating jobs and growing their businesses instead of penalizing them for it. And as a veteran I know how important access to opportunity is when joining the civilian workforce, and HB 4128 will help more veteran entrepreneurs be able to get ahead.

We should be doing everything we can to help Oregon's small businesses thrive, not punishing them for their own success. HB 4128 will allow more small businesses meeting COBID certifications to invest in their workforce and provide greater economic opportunity.

Respectfully,

Mark Meek
State Representative – Oregon House District 40

