



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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House Votes to Continue Successful Economic Development Loans

SB 494 eliminates sunset on 2010 Access to Business Capital Act

SALEM – The Oregon House today voted to continue offering loans to small businesses for business development. SB 494 eliminates the sunset on the Access to Business Capital Act of 2010, which reduced restrictions on the use of the Oregon Business Development Fund and Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund loans to businesses.

“When I sponsored the Access to Business Capital Act in 2010, my aim was to help businesses that wanted to hire Oregonians, but could not secure the private capital necessary to do so,” said Representative Margaret Doherty (D-Tigard). “Now that the economy is rebounding, it makes sense to continue this successful program so we can keep our recovery going.”

The Oregon Business Development Fund is a revolving loan fund that provides term fixed-rate financing for small businesses focusing especially on those in rural and distressed areas. Participants are required to create or retain jobs and must be a traded-sector business in manufacturing, processing, or a regionally significant tourist facility.

The Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund provides initial direct loans to help companies get started in Oregon by assisting micro-enterprise and small businesses, filling a niche not provided through traditional lending markets. Both funds are administered by the Oregon Business Development Department.

Under the program, loans have been made to small businesses in cities across the state. Business Oregon reports there are more than 10 potential projects in the pipeline and more than 300 jobs have been created or saved through these loan programs since 2010. Loans have been awarded to businesses including Ninkasi Brewing in Eugene, Frog Eyes Wasabi in Pacific City, Ochoco Lumber in John Day and Painted Hills Beef in Fossil. Businesses that are interested in applying for financing through the Oregon Business Development Department can check out available programs [here](#).

“Given our budget situation, this bill provides us an important opportunity to support business development in Oregon without diverting funds from critical programs and services,” said Rep.

Doherty. “SB 494 is an easy way for us to continue to support the hard work of small businesses throughout our state at no additional cost.”

SB 494 now moves to the Governor’s desk for his possible signature.

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