



VALUE OF OUR PARTNERSHIP



JOHN SARIS,
CDFA BOARD
OF DIRECTORS,
BUSINESS SERVICES
MANAGER, BUSINESS
OREGON

Innovation, leadership, and adaptability are just a few of the core values and principles that we commonly find within the Oregon business community. Undoubtedly, these are some of the same values that you find in your communities.

Whether we are private or public employees, development finance or economic development practitioners, these are traits that we strive to emulate in order to add value to our local communities and businesses.

As an economic development professional, one of my key objectives is to identify communities, organizations and individuals—partners—who have similar values and goals. The rapid pace of global business today requires that we remain in constant communication with our partners, lending communities, and development groups. Accessibility to current events and information helps us maintain relevance in our work and offer up-to-date advice to our customers.

For Business Oregon, and for me individually, CDFAs' demonstrated leadership in the development finance industry makes them a critical partner in being able to equip our finance team and me with timely and insightful

information about federal policies, programs, and legislation that impacts our work at the state level.

Business Oregon works to expand, retain, create, and attract businesses that provide sustainable, living wage jobs. Our Business Finance programs represent some of our core tools in that effort. Oregon is fortunate to have a mature suite of business finance programs that include direct loans, loan guarantees, and Private Activity Bonds. Bond financing, and in particular Industrial Revenue Bonds, have been, and will continue to be, one of our critical tools. CDFAs have proven to be a valuable resource as we update our finance programs to meet current and future local needs.

CDFAs are well positioned to play an ongoing role in the shaping, reauthorizing, and implementing efforts that will sharpen these development finance tools in the future.

CDFAs have further helped Oregon through its advocacy work on the federal New Markets Tax Credit and Private Activity Bond programs, as well as the new federal State Small Business Credit Initiative. They have given voice to the ideas and concerns of its membership

to the federal agencies charged with implementing and administering these programs, as well as to our elected officials in Congress.

Because of CDFAs' innovation, leadership, and adaptability, the immediate and long term membership benefits of CDFAs' proven record of success warrants our support. Our agency participates with CDFAs and its members during Capitol Hill visits, specialized training, national conferences, networking opportunities, and in the development of local development finance conferences.

In my experience, the staff at CDFAs brings knowledge, resources and credibility to each of these activities. If you are a member, thank you. If you are not, please take a closer look – reach out to CDFAs' membership, and I am confident you will find that most hold the organization, its staff, and membership in similarly high regard.

None of us knows what the future of development finance holds. However, the one certainty in these tumultuous economic times is that CDFAs and its membership will be there to ensure that development finance has an effective voice.