



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

August 8, 2008

Dear Agency Directors and Contract Procurement Officers:

Today, I issued Executive Order No. 08-16, entitled "Promoting Diversity and Equal Opportunity for Minority and Women Owned Businesses." I firmly believe that the State of Oregon must be a leader in promoting diversity. This means we must foster an inclusive business climate that supports economic growth in all sectors, including among Oregon's minority and women owned businesses. To reach its true potential, Oregon must build on the strengths of *all* Oregonians.

Executive Order 08-16 helps Oregon create a more inclusive business environment by directing agencies to collect data on how certified minority and women owned enterprises are doing business with the State and to set aspirational targets for including those businesses in the contract procurement process. Your agency has been selected to set aspirational targets because I believe its potential contracting needs are well-matched with existing sectors of certified minority and women owned businesses.

To be clear, this Executive Order does not in any way create a preference program or alter the existing procurement code. Instead, this Executive Order is a call to action: we must be more proactive in including certified minority and women businesses in bidding and contracting processes, reducing the red tape associated with contracting, and removing unnecessarily cumbersome barriers to doing business with the State. Lydia Muniz, my Advocate for Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business, will be a key resource in helping you evaluate your procurement process and proposed aspirational targets.

I look forward to working with you to meet this challenge. I also look forward to honoring managers and contract procurement officers who make extraordinary efforts to foster Oregon's inclusive business environment, through my new Promoting Diversity Certificate of Excellence program. I know that with all of us working together we can and will do better!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore R. Kulongoski".

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

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