



Chair Beyer, Members of the Business and Transportation Committee:

For the record, my name is Kyle Walker and I am the new Chief Executive Officer for the Oregon Travel Experience located at 1500 Liberty St SE, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon.

I am here primarily to make your acquaintance, to put a face to a name, and thank you for considering adoption of **Senate Bill 276**. This is a bill we initiated in order to ensure we met the requirements placed on other semi-independent agencies regarding fiscal accountability and transparency. It provides the flexibility to conduct a variety of financial review of OTE based on need with minimal impact to limited agency funds and workload of the Secretary of State's office.

Over the last four years we have grown from a cash basis accounting system to a fully developed and compliant financial reporting structure. We have complied with recommendations of a voluntary Financial Review conducted in 2011 to prepare for and support a Secretary of State Audit in 2012. These studies have set a best practice framework for budget preparation and fiscal integrity for the 2012 – 2015 biennium and will supportt agency strategic planning initiatives.

Our most recent year end Financial Report reflected revenues ahead of projections, expenses lower than expected and a cash flow which has allowed us to add to our emergency reserve for anticipated capital replacement costs due to aging rest area infrastructure.

Oregon Travel Experience is a semi-independent agency funded by permit fees and transportation dollars. We are governed by a volunteer Council with one member from the Oregon Transportation Commission and 10 members representing each congressional district. These members also represent the transportation, hospitality, sign industry and public at large.

Our agency may be small, but our impact on the traveling public is huge. OTE and the Council's mission is to create a great visitor experience by providing direction to destinations, connecting motorists with Oregon's resources and ensuring safe and convenient travel. We collaborate with community leaders, regional businesses, and state agency partners (including ODOT and the Oregon Tourism Commission) to provide the best motoring experience possible.

Our programs support local economic prosperity across the state by directing traffic to essential services with our **Highway Logo Sign** Program. We also ensure that travel is both safe and convenient with onsite **Rest Area** Supervision. Oregon Travel Experience also administers the **Oregon Heritage Tree** and **Historic Marker** programs working with professional volunteers representing Oregon's communities.

Thank you for your time today and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

1500 Liberty St .S.E.,
Suite 150
Salem, OR 97302

503.378.4508 tel
503.378.6282 fax

otravelexperience.com

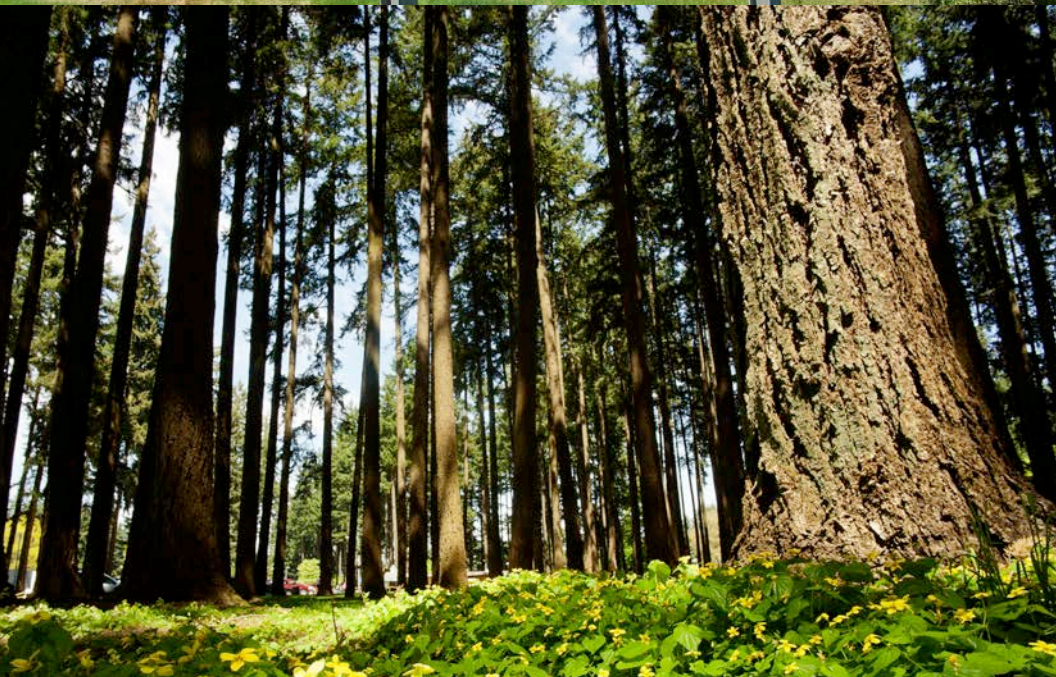




Highway Logo Signs



Rest Area Management



Heritage Tree Program



Historical Marker Program