



March 19, 2013

House Committee on Consumer Protection
And Government Efficiency
Testimony on HB 3360

Chair Holvey and members of the Committee, my name is Noel Magee. I am an Application Development Team Lead with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and a member of SEIU. I have over 25 years of IT experience in private industry and I have worked for ODFW for 2 years.

I am here today to testify in support of HB 3360 as amended. The language in the bill is place holder language meant to be replaced. We have submitted a document outlining our proposed amendments to the bill.

The goal of the legislation is to require the Department of Administrative Services to establish an Office of Shared Technology Services to serve agencies in two distinct ways. The first is to provide oversight and guidance for small to medium sized agencies through more informed analysis of agency IT problems and challenges, better decisions on potential solutions, cost effective and efficient acquisition of products and services and oversight of the acquisition, development, implementation and management of information technology projects.

There have been countless examples over the years of failed state IT projects. Just this January, the Oregonian reported that the Board of Accountancy spent a quarter of their annual budget on a failed online licensing system. Proper oversight for a board like this could have helped to avoid this costly mistake. Not to mention the immeasurable bad PR for the state.

The second way this office would serve state agencies is by providing a cost-effective alternative to expensive contracting out of IT services. In SEIU's 2011 report "Moving Oregon Forward", it was reported that managers for the state of Oregon estimated that on average performing information technology work in-house costs 68.9% of what it costs to contract out the same work.

Creating this office and staffing it with highly skilled experts from existing information technology positions in state government will allow them to respond to a variety of agency needs. This office should have expertise in acquiring and developing new technologies, architecture and project management and contracting with private sector vendors.

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Fundamental to the success of this office will be the continued training and education of the staff to keep them abreast of the most current and cost effective technologies".

This office will allow agencies to avoid some of the costly contracting out that happens in state government, while at the same time receiving the highest quality service and expertise.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.