



CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL ORGANIZING

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Chair Shields, Vice Chair George, and members of the committee,

The Center for Intercultural Organizing is a diverse, grassroots organization working to build a multi-racial, multi-ethnic movement for immigrant and refugee rights. We envision a strong, multicultural democracy inclusive of all and we engage in community education, civic engagement and policy advocacy, and intergenerational leadership development to further this goal.

Because of the high value we place on good government, thriving democracy, and equal opportunity, today we submit these comments in support of SB 1522.

SB 1522 would help to ensure that government's use of Automatic License Plate Reader surveillance technology continues only with reasonable guidelines to protect the privacy of all Oregonians. We know that this type of surveillance may provide a helpful tool to law enforcement, but we also know that the cameras are capable of capturing the private travel and location patterns of thousands of people never suspected of any criminal wrongdoing. The Portland Police have reported that they currently have 16 license plate reader cameras and that they hold on to all data – including innocent people's data – for up to 4 years. It is time that clear and consistent statewide guidelines be applied to this type of surveillance so that the public knows that privacy protections are in place.

Privacy is a core component to the free exercise of all of our civil rights. But the lack of privacy protections poses particular risk of harm for the culturally diverse communities that we serve. Without guidelines for use of surveillance technology and strong reporting requirements to keep the public informed, government agencies are left unchecked and may engage in policing that discriminatorily targets groups based on protected classes such as race, national origin, or religious affiliation (see the recent example of use of license plate readers used to surveil Muslim communities in Newark, New Jersey without suspicion of criminal activity¹).

We at CIO see SB 1522 as a good government bill as well as a good *policing* bill that promotes public safety and community trust, and advances equity in Oregon. We urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

¹ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2012/08/21/documents-show-u-s-customs-tracking-millions-of-license-plates-and-sharing-data-with-insurance-firms/>