

The Oregon Solutions Network



The **Oregon Solutions Network** promotes collaborative governance in the State of Oregon by using a cross sector approach to respond to challenges and opportunities that lead to sustainable community and statewide solutions. Governor Kitzhaber signed an executive order in December 2011 establishing the network to link Oregon Solutions, Oregon Consensus, and the Regional Solutions Centers in order to leverage their collective assets and align them all with priorities that are established by Regional Advisory Committees.

Principles of Collaborative Governance

Transparency and Accountability: Decisions take place in the public eye.

Equity and Inclusiveness: All interests who are needed and willing contribute to the solution.

Effectiveness and Efficiency: Solutions are tested to make sure they make practical sense.

Responsiveness: Public concerns are authentically addressed.

Forum Neutrality: Different perspectives are welcome; the process itself has no bias.

Oregon Consensus

As the state's designated dispute resolution program, Oregon Consensus (OC) provides a neutral forum to help parties work together to address contentious public policy issues with decisions made through consensus rather than majority rule.

OC is a resource for communities that are experiencing difficulty in agreeing on a solution.



www.orconsensus.pdx.edu

Contact Laurel Singer:
laurels@pdx.edu

Regional Solutions Centers

Representatives from five state agencies (DEQ, ODOT, OHCS, DLCD, Business Oregon) are co-located in Regional Solutions Centers (RSCs) across the state in six universities and community colleges. The RSC's focus on solving problems and seizing opportunities for locally identified projects that require integration of state agency work and funding. RSC Coordinators staff Regional Advisory committees.



www.regionalsolutions.oregon.gov

Contact Lisa Howard:
lisa.howard@state.or.us

Oregon Solutions

Oregon Solutions (OS) is charged with developing sustainable solutions to community-based problems that support economic, environmental, and community objectives and promote prosperity.

OS works across sectors—government, business, and non-profit—to agree how a project will be implemented which is then memorialized in a Declaration of Cooperation.



www.orsolutions.org

Contact Beverly Stein:
steinbev@pdx.edu

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public lands, air and waters. HB 4015 does not provide for any form of public notice and/or comment in the setting of the regional priorities. All state agencies with grant and loan funds are required, regardless of agency mission, to prioritize “Regional Priorities” in both their funding decisions (Sect. 2(1)) and also in setting the priorities and purposes of the agency (Sect. 2(2)).

Concerns with the bill as introduced:

1. **Regional Priorities are set without any public notice/comment.** HB 4015 directs the regional advisory committees to establish “regional priorities”. These priorities are set without any opportunity for public notice and comment. Once set, these priorities dictate not only the funding priorities of state agencies, but they also influence agency priorities and workload, regardless of individual agency missions. Many of the priorities set thus far will affect statewide lands and waters that are important to thousands upon thousands of Oregonians. Without allowing for meaningful public input, this program will leave many interests feeling disenfranchised and could affect the ultimate success of the program.
 - Solution: insert robust public notice/comment provisions (-4 amendments),
2. **Regional Advisory Committees are not balanced.** HB 4015 sets up regional advisory committees that are not reflective of the whole of community interest in community and economic development. The Committees are made up largely of business interests, elected officials and a few philanthropic organizations. These regional advisory committees are tasked with setting regional priorities. They also can dictate agency participation and/or work priorities via the regional solutions team. Under the bill, regional priorities dictate the funding and workload priorities of state agencies (regardless of agency mission). As many of the regional priorities will affect regional and/or statewide natural resources and/or could have an impact on underrepresented community members, these seats are necessary to ensure that the regional priorities that are recommended by the Regional Advisory Committees do in fact align with the priorities of the community and/or region.
 - Solution: add two seats to the regional advisory committees-- (1) conservation NGO and (2) citizen/social justice seats (-4 amendments)
3. **HB 4015 does not direct that community and economic development be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.** Governors Kitzhaber and Kulongoski helped craft what is now the Regional Solutions Network over the past two decades. Important building blocks of this program included executive orders and/or laws that set sustainability and environmental objectives and goals for community and economic development. These are not included in HB 4015.
 - Solution: Insert into the definition of “community and economic development” both environmental and sustainability sideboards to incorporate work by our past and present Governors. Insert into the list of factors that a state agency must consider when awarding funds for community or economic development, that the project will protect Oregon’s public health, welfare, safety and environment. (-4 amendments).