



February 6, 2015

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
c/o Senator Mark Hass, Chair  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bills 570 and 571, Central Assessment

Chair Hass and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) appreciates your willingness to address central assessment. OEDA is a statewide non-profit organization working to support economic development professionals who are on Oregon's front line in diversifying and expanding Oregon's economy. OEDA's membership includes a mix of public and private entities from economic development corporations, cities, utilities and other stakeholders interested in attracting investment here in Oregon.

A key aspect of fostering the growth of Oregon's existing businesses and recruiting new businesses is a tax environment that is both reasonable and ascertainable. In the wake of the Department of Revenue's approach to valuation of intangibles and the subsequent court case involving Comcast, businesses are currently unable to project the property tax ramifications related to investment in our state. In addition, many data centers risk losing the benefit of local abatements as a result of the Oregon Supreme Court's decision.

OEDA asks the committee to find an approach to central assessment that provides certainty for Oregon's existing and prospective businesses. We support an approach for valuing intangibles that is either static or limits volatile increases based on varying valuation approaches. OEDA supports SB 571 and preserving the existing incentives available to Oregon's recently established data centers within enterprise zones.

We thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Garrison", written in a cursive style.

Sarah Garrison  
President

Cc: Paul Warner, Legislative Revenue Officer