

Dear honorable chair, committee members, and staff,

My name is Christopher Chapman and I am writing this testimony to discuss SB958. I am a junior at Lowell Junior/Senior High School. I live at 15 Loftus, Lowell Oregon. I am involved with band, choir, football, track, and our school's robotics program. I unfortunately am unable to attend this session in person due to the number of extracurricular activities that have made me miss most of this month of school I need to attend school today so that I do not fall behind. While I am on the topic of school, I would like to mention that Lowell, Oregon has a great community. Our school has several noteworthy programs including, but not limited to band, choir, football, volleyball, wrestling, and track. Of those I have listed, they have all made state playoff level and beyond, I should also let you know we have more programs than that, those are just a few, and I am probably doing some programs great injustice by leaving them out. We have a very small school and as a result, get less money for funding from the state. That means to keep these amazing programs going, we need to have the ability to fundraise in excess. One such fundraising opportunity is the Blackberry Jam Fishing Jamboree. People pay to enter, catch the trash fish known as the Northwestern Pikeminnow. After the fish have been caught, they are then sold to people who would be looking for the dead fish, such as fertilizer companies and fishermen looking for crabbing bait. The profit turned from this jamboree funds the prizes awarded. All excess money is donated to the school. We need this money to help fund our sports and extracurricular activities. When we can fund those activities, we can produce high-quality athletes, musicians, and just in general people. We come today to ask that you pass SB958 and allow us to continue our traditions, and help us produce the highest quality people we can.