



KATHLEEN TAYLOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 41
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB 295A

House Education Committee
Monday, April 27
1 PM, Hearing Room D

Chair Doherty and members of the Committee,

I am Kathleen Taylor, State Representative for District 41, which encompasses Milwaukie, Oak Grove and parts of Southeast Portland. I am here today to offer my support for Senate Bill 295A.

SB 295A includes additional officials to the list of those required to file a Statement of Economic Interest with the Oregon Ethics Commission. My particular interest is to add the office of the Metro Auditor.

The Metro Auditor is elected by the voters of Metro, which includes a population of over 1.5 million people. The Metro Auditor's responsibilities are similar to those of other elected and appointed local government auditors: ensuring the efficiency, accountability, and ethical operations of government on behalf of the population they serve.

So obviously it is important that the person who serves in such a position be above reproach ethically, and that any potential conflicts of interest be transparently disclosed.

Yet, by some oversight, the Metro Auditor is not required to file a Statement of Economic Interest.

That is why Rep. Kenemer and I introduced HB 2063, which adds the Metro Auditor to the list of public officials who are required to file a statement of economic interest. The bill was developed at the request of the then-incumbent Metro Auditor, Suzanne Flynn. However, when the Legislature convened, Metro's lobbyist, Randy Tucker, noticed that SB 295 addressed a similar concern, so rather than pass two bills, we added the Metro auditor piece into SB 295.

This is a very simple bill that addresses a minor oversight and has no known opposition. I urge your support.