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Chair Williamson and Honorable Members of the Committee
House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support 2016 HB 4051

Dear Chair Williamson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Oregon has long needed a legislative mechanism for strategically reviewing existing statutes, administrative rules, administrative decisions, and legislative bills (including those that did not pass). HB 4051 is one of the most powerful and important advances in legislation in the history of the State of Oregon, and it will one day serve as a powerful blueprint for the entire nation. This legislation will enable state governments to develop much more effective policy, detect policy mistakes, and correct related problems much sooner (and more effectively) than current policies enable.

This bill will reduce the extent whereby administrative agencies transgress legislative intentions, it will reduce economic waste, it will reduce the impact of administrative lobbying efforts, and it will improve transparency of government.

I testify that it will prevent policy mistakes while also providing a mechanism to allow those mistakes to become detected, analyzed, and fixed (or at least planned to be fixed accordingly) before the policy changes again.

It puts power back into the hands of the people to ensure that justice is carried out for the public good, to ensure that laws are reviewed for their effects, and to ensure that the legislative intent from previous legislative sessions can be analyzed and leveraged to further the developments of good law.

As an example, I would like to compare the development of 1995 HB 2493 to 1997 SB 235. These two bills are good examples of policies that would be perfect for review by the Joint Committee on Strategic Public Policy Review due to the clear contrast of legislative intent that was obviously not adequately addressed when the 1997 bill passed and was enacted into law.