



Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
900 Court St. NE, Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: [SB 1569](#)

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley

We are writing in support of SB 1569 which would establish a Legislative Research and Policy Committee and the position of Legislative Policy and Research Director. The thoughtful steps contained in this bill to increase the Legislative Assembly's capacity to conduct policy analyses and research has the potential for providing Oregonians with greater clarity and understanding regarding many of the decisions facing legislators and policy makers in the years ahead.

The establishment of a professional, non-partisan staff capable of scoping issues, suggesting alternatives, identifying successful initiatives elsewhere, and working with other practitioners in a variety of issues can improve understanding among and between legislators and the many interests engaged in the legislative process.

The year-round nature of the work contemplated in SB 1569 will also enable the exchange of relevant information and experience between the legislature and Oregon's research universities.

We wish to take this opportunity to support the legislature's efforts to increase its level of engagement, and to offer our assistance as you consider the future of this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Grant Jacobson, Director  
Master of Public Administration  
University of Oregon

Mark Henkels, Professor  
Politics Policy & Administration

Stephen Percy, Dean  
College of Urban & Public Affairs  
Portland State University

Brent S. Steel, Director  
Public Policy Graduate Program  
Oregon State University