



Vice Provost for Information Services

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March 9, 2016

The Honorable Senator Chuck Riley, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 90A – Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon State University division of Information Services to offer my support of SB 90, which will unify state information technology functions and form the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence. The Center of Excellence will provide a pipeline for professionals working in cybersecurity, a much needed resource in the State of Oregon, and help advance our shared interest in keeping information systems and personal information safe.

The large amount of personally identifiable information held by public agencies such as the State of Oregon and Oregon State University (OSU) make our organizations highly attractive targets to hackers. As a result, we face a rapidly growing volume of increasingly sophisticated attacks that represent an unprecedented challenge to our organizations. It is clear that having the ability to scale will be essential if we are to respond to this challenge effectively. A scaled, dedicated cybersecurity organization can serve as an effective strategy to manage this challenge. It would enable the State to maintain a staff with the expertise needed in specialized areas of cybersecurity, with knowledge of the latest threats, and with the ability to adopt the most current software and hardware tools.

SB 90 and the formation of the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence would offer the State of Oregon's Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Oregon State University a way to achieve this scale. We intend to use the Center as a framework for collaboration. Through it, we intend to share our expertise, operate jointly needed services, and offer internship opportunities for students and retraining for existing staff in the emerging fields of cybersecurity prevention and mediation. With the assistance of OSU's faculty experts on cybersecurity, the Center will provide the State of Oregon and OSU the ability to recognize and respond to new threats.

Additionally, SB 90 seeks to address the security awareness and education of the citizens of Oregon. Currently, Oregon does not have a mechanism for coordinating cybersecurity information sharing and cross-sector incident response, responding to cyber threats, or promoting awareness amongst public and private sectors. This is an important line of defense to help Oregonians remain safe in this era of digital threats, and I support the State's leadership in undertaking this work.

I recommend your support for SB90 and your assistance in offering the means by which OSU and the State of Oregon's agencies can achieve the scale of expertise and cybersecurity capability needed to protect the privacy and security of the citizens of the State of Oregon.

Respectfully,

Lois Brooks

Lois Brooks

Vice Provost, Information Services & CIO

Oregon State University