

April 4, 2017

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 - Cyber Security Center of Excellence

Honorable Senator Chuck Riley and Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson,

Multnomah County was asked early on to be a supporter of the State of Oregon's efforts in establishing the concept of a statewide Cyber Center of Excellence. This concept is now becoming a reality. All of us are vulnerable to malicious cyber activity and, as custodians of many types of public data, we have a tremendous responsibility to protect that data. Citizens should have the expectation that regardless of which public entity is in possession of their data, it is protected in a consistent manner.

Cyber security threats know no boundaries. As many public bodies have discovered, the malicious actors responsible for those threats are opportunistic and diligent, spreading a wide net and constantly probing for vulnerabilities in order to see what they can catch. Many smaller local government entities in Oregon do not have the type of resources that larger organizations like Multnomah County have at their disposal. We also know that we are collectively only as strong as the weakest link.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 90 which builds on Executive Order 16-13 "Unifying Cyber Security in Oregon". The Executive Order, which transferred from most state agencies their information technology security functions to the Office of the State CIO, was signed into effect by Governor Brown in February 2015.

This important legislation builds on Executive Order 16-13 in a number of ways. Principally, it creates the Oregon Cyber Security Center of Excellence ("OCCE") and charges OCCE with coordinating cyber security information sharing and cross-sector incident response, performing cyber security threat analysis and remediation, and promoting shared and real-time situational awareness between and among the public and private sectors. OCCE would provide the interface enabling the state to draw on the expertise and capabilities of the private sector to develop a long-term, multi-sector cyber strategy for preventing future threats. The outcomes include improving the ability to respond to cyber disruptions and building capacity across the state with our local government partners and school districts.

Along with my colleagues from the cyber security community here in Oregon, I urge you to support this important piece of legislation. We believe Senate Bill 90 will be a cornerstone of the state's efforts to safeguard our digital assets and establish Oregon as leader among state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) governments in the United States.

Sincerely,



Sherry Swackhamer
Chief Information Officer
Multnomah County, Oregon