



**Oregon Secretary of State
Dennis Richardson**

Testimony Supporting SB 588

The Secretary of State applauds the work that Senator Knopp and other bill proponents have done to model SB 588 after the highly successful federal Inspector General program. Oregon government functions best when it is fully transparent and accountable to the people of Oregon.

In recent years, government agencies have wasted hundreds of millions of dollars on failed projects like Cover Oregon and Columbia River Crossing. There is no question that more oversight is needed.

Senate Bill 588 will create additional incentives for state agencies to self-police wasteful spending and hold agencies accountable when they fail to do so. The Secretary of State's Audits Division is already a watchdog of public spending and government performance to ensure that Oregon taxpayers receive maximum value for their tax dollars. Expanding this audit capacity will increase efficiency savings as the spotlight of increased transparency reveals wasteful spending.

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