



April 12th, 2017

Testimony Opposing SB 1052

Senator Chuck Riley and Members of the Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Riley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 1052. This testimony comes to you on behalf of; Climate Solutions, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, WaterWatch Oregon, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, League of Women Voters of Oregon, and Beyond Toxics all of whom are Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) members. OCN is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and is a coalition of nearly 40 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by the tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to protect funding for natural resource agencies and programs, as well as policy that will ensure a better Oregon for our children.

SB 1052 will take away the ability for our state agencies to operate in a manner that allows them to best react to changes in their budgets for our state economy. Oregon's natural resource agencies are incredibly fee dependent, with fees responsible for roughly 50% of their budgets in the 2015-17 biennium¹. Any legislation that threatens Oregon's natural resource agencies from accomplishing their mandate through unnecessary legislative wrangling is greatly concerning. Already, state agencies must defend and seek approval of any new fee increases from the legislature. In fact, they must have their fees approved by this body once they have evidence of its validity and effectiveness.

The way that administratively adopted fees currently work is that if agencies have authority to change fees, they do so in rule and give notice to DAS and LFO. If the DAS Director approves the fee changes, the fees are effective until the next following legislative session, at which point the legislature has to ratify the fees. If passed, SB 1052 may delay effectiveness of some fees and thereby reduce flexibility for raising revenue, depending on how Section 1 (3) (L) would be interpreted or applied. Forcing state agencies to defend all new fees or increases through the legislative process — before they even have the opportunity to prove themselves — will only clog our

¹ 2017-19 Governor's Budget



legislative process and halt our state agencies from being as nimble and adaptive as we need them to be.

In conclusion, we ask this Committee to vote down this short-sighted bill. We believe Oregon's state agencies are already overworked and underfunded, and adding this cumbersome new regulation will only slow the invaluable services our state agencies provide all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Paige Spence, Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Environmental Council
Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club
Chris Parta, Climate Solutions
John Devoe, WaterWatch of Oregon
Tom Wolf, Oregon Council Trout Unlimited
Lisa Arkin, Beyond Toxics
Peggy Lynch, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Phillip Johnson, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition