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**Testimony to the House Committee on Rules
on House Bill 2101**

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Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Dear Chair Williamson, members of the Rules Committee,

The Oregon Environmental Council believes the state's records law plays a crucial role in informing Oregonians about how their government works. The roughly 550 exemptions that HB 2101 would review and potentially amend are a critical part of this law.

Because the current law is so important, OEC would respectfully requests that the committee consider an alternative method of vetting, transparency and deliberation, as other states have done to ensure public trust. In Maine, it's called a Right to Know Advisory Committee. In Washington, a Sunshine Committee. It has other names in other states. All of them have something in common: leaders in those states have called for a government body to review exemptions, one in which the public has a full seat at the table. This helps ensure full transparency and the public trust.

If the Oregon Legislature decides to revise this law, we hope it is done with full deliberation to avoid unintended consequences.