



May 21, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

To: The Honorable Senator James Manning Jr., Co-Chair and the Honorable Representative Greg Smith, Co-Chair

Re: Software Diligence Services and PDX Cyber Camp support for SB 90

Software Diligence Services, LLC (SDS) is a small Portland-based technology innovation consulting firm specializing in assisting companies develop and market software-based products in the information security, networking, energy, industrial and IoT markets. SDS supports SB 90 and is excited for the prospects of the development of a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

Over the last few years, we have seen an increasing need for services related to building cybersecurity products, securing company networks, and in upgrading the software development processes to incorporate secure software development practices – and we expect this activity to continue to grow, resulting increased need for highly trained cybersecurity professionals in many parts of the technology field.

We have also witnessed various industries increasing their requirements for suppliers and business partners to comply with increasingly stringent information security requirements – in an effort to improve supply chain security. These requirements not only affect large enterprise, but the same requirements pass down to small companies that provide technologies and services to larger organizations. These new requirements strain small businesses who are frequently unprepared, vulnerable and don't have staff or budget to meet modern security requirements.

To address the issues of small business, we need an expansion of cybersecurity training and education at the high school and college level, creating and growing a trained workforce that is available and affordable. We have small pockets of successful programs in Oregon that could serve as templates for expansion across the state. Programs such as the cybersecurity clinic at the Small Business Development Center at Mount Hood Community College and PDX Cyber Camp (of which we are a founder and managing partner) are examples. These programs, run on shoe-string budgets and in the case of PDX Cyber Camp, by volunteers, could benefit greatly from visibility and assistance made possible in collaboration by a Center of Excellence. For example the Center of Excellence may be better positioned to land Federal funds to accelerate the growth of these programs.

We hope the Center of Excellence can play a role in helping support programs designed to grow our cybersecurity workforce and assist small companies in securing their information systems without breaking the bank, and believe the Center of Excellence can foster improvements in workforce development and can support the development of programs that may not be available through other means.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CK', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Charlie Kawasaki, CISSP
CEO, Software Diligence Services
Co-founder, PDX Cyber Camp
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