



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Board of Accountancy**

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**Before the  
Senate Business and Transportation Committee  
February 1, 2017  
SB 21**

**Testimony of  
Scott Wright, CPA, Board of Accountancy**

Chair Sen. Beyer, Vice-Chair Senator Thomsen, Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Scott Wright, I am a practicing CPA and partner in the Eugene public accountancy firm Kernutt Stokes. In December 2015, I was confirmed by the Oregon State Senate for my second 3-year term on the Board of Accountancy, where I just finished a one-year term as Board Chair. Thank you for allowing me to appear before you to testify briefly about the Board-requested Senate Bill 21.

The purpose of my testimony will be to give you brief background about the Board of Accountancy and the proposed bill before you today; Mr. Pittioni will focus more on the specific language and operational impacts of the bill.

The Board of Accountancy licenses approximately 8,000 Certified Public Accountants, Public Accountants and municipal auditors, as well as about 1,000 public accounting firms. Within its mission of protecting the public is a public protection component, where the Board investigates complaints against firms and licensees, and takes action based on the facts gathered in the investigative record in its cases. The Board opens anywhere from 40 to 70 full investigations a year.

In May 2011, Board of Accountancy statutes were amended due to passage of HB 2067, which provided that the previously public complaint process for the Board would become confidential. The language is written in such a way that records and information are exempt from disclosure during the pendency of an investigation. The bill itself had no opposition – but did not anticipate that as written it failed to authorize the Board to cooperate with law enforcement and other state and federal regulatory agencies during the pendency of an investigation.

Therefore, the Board of Accountancy comes before you today and respectfully requests you adjust just that missing element with passage of Senate Bill 21 as introduced. In the view of the Board Senate Bill 21 will remove a hurdle for the Board in accomplishing its mission to protect the public. With the permission of Chair Beyer, I would like to turn the remaining testimony of the Board over to Mr. Pittioni, the Board's Executive Director, unless there are questions for me at this time. Thank you for your time, and your early consideration of Senate Bill 21.

