



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability

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Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair
Senator Mark Hass
Senator Dennis Linthicum
Senator James Manning Jr.

*TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SB 1501
FEBRUARY 6, 2018*

Chair Riley, members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem. I am here to testify in support of SB 1501.

The State Fair has a special place in my heart. It's located in my district. It is less than 2 miles north of where we are sitting right now. When I was trying to move us out of the building for seismic retrofitting, the State Fairgrounds was one of the places I was going to have us move. It's where I go every summer to lose in a goat milking competition.

In the 2013 session, I sponsored SB 7 to create the State Fair Council as a public cooperation. The Governor appointed the council and they have been doing some great work promoting and leading our State Fair.

It is important to me that we continue to have strong leadership for the State Fair. SB 1501 makes some small but important changes to the State Fair Council, including decreasing membership from 11-15 to 9-13 and implementing clear term limits.

Most importantly, this bill adjusts the terms of office for all the current and future Council members. This will ensure that only a third of the Council's terms will be up at the same time. This means there are always senior members on the Council to provide continuity to the Council, and preventing the entire Council's terms from expiring at the same time.

This is a housecleaning bill for the State Fair Council. I'd like to thank the State Fair Council for bringing forward this issue. I'd also like to thank them for their tireless work on behalf of the State Fair and the State of Oregon.

Thank you Chair Riley, members of the Committee for your time. I'd be happy to answer any questions.