



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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**Testimony of Samuel Pastrick, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)
Before the Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology
Re: House Bill 4023**

Co-Chairs Nathanson and Riley, Members of the Committee:

My name is Samuel Pastrick, and I submit this testimony on on behalf of Oregon Citizens' Utility Board to urge your support of House Bill 4023 with the -A13 amendment.

Voters created Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) through a 1984 ballot measure to serve as Oregon's residential utility customer advocate. CUB's extensive regulatory and legislative efforts with regard to energy utility issues complement an informed and strong voice for consumers on information and communications technology issues.

The guiding principle that fair, unencumbered, and affordable Internet service is necessary to participate in the modern age underpins CUB's support of HB 4023, including the -A13 amendment.

CUB supports House Bill 4023, with amendments, because the bill strategically emboldens the State's Chief Information Office with the appropriate provisions to facilitate more competitive, effective, and efficient partnership opportunities, with not just the private sector - and this would include cable companies, incumbent phone companies, as well as non-telecom providers - but also existing or newly-formed municipal or jurisdictional broadband providers.

CUB is keenly aware of, and indeed appreciates, the concerns regarding previous amendments. Yet our belief is that the -A13 amendment remedies these concerns while facilitating greater flexibility and opportunity for the Chief Information Office to leverage assets prudently and for the benefit of Oregon Internet customers.

Respectfully,

Samuel Pastrick
Outreach Manager
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board