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Dear Members of the Natural Resources Subcommittee:

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and allowing me to express my opinion regarding the matter of Oregon Measurement Standards Division's (Weights & Measures) continued funding.

I am the owner of a 60-year old scale company in which we have been doing business in Oregon for the past 32 years. We have offices in several Northwest cities with our main offices in Scio. We conduct business in 6 Western States as well as Alaska. In short, we are an Oregon business facing changing times. One of our major concerns in the scale business is assuring our customers that they are receiving efficient and trustworthy service. Without such assurance, we would be out of business.

We are not the only scale business in Oregon; however, we do have an honest and fair reputation among our customers. That reputation derives from the fact that we maintain our equipment in conformance with the State rules and regulations as well as all Federal requirements. At times, we have to tell our customers that in order for them to remain in compliance with the rules and regulations, they need to spend dollars for new equipment because their old equipment is not in conformance and cannot be brought into conformance. This is not always a popular point, but most customers understand that in order for them to remain in business, they need to be in compliance as well.

That brings me to my point in this letter; With the exception of Oregon, most other States do not test or inspect commerce scales regularly which means that a customer can be out of compliance, and in some instances, not even legal for trade. That in turn means that the consumer may be getting cheated which is the whole point of having a State Department to prevent that from happening. Our Oregon Measurement Standards Division is very active in educating scale companies like our in the current rules and regulations. Additionally, they enforce State laws as well as the Federal requirements found in Handbook 44 (every State is required to adhere to the requirements).

In talking with other scale companies outside Oregon, they often wonder why Oregon enforces its rules and regulations when the other States do not. To me, it is much easier to work in Oregon knowing that rules and regulations are being followed and that nobody is getting cheated. That should also be appreciated by the consumer. I am proud of the job being done by Oregon Measurement Standards Division. They are efficient and readily accessible. Their Metrology lab is considered among the best in the nation. They are staffed adequately with very knowledgeable personnel who perform weights testing in a manner that does not cause excessive down time for scale companies such as ours. We have our weights certified here in Oregon because they can do the job in approximately 5-days as compared to other States that take up to 30-days. Oregon's Metrology Lab schedules a date and time for the weights to come in that can allow our business to not lose too many down days. In order to be that efficient, many years of hard work and planning

have resulted in a very well ran Department that is solely to the benefit of the consumer. If Oregon loses this lab, it is doubtful that it could ever be replaced given the array of regulations to place a new one.

In closing, I would like to leave you with one additional thought; we, (the taxpayers) have spent considerable time and money to get the Measurement Standards Division to be as efficient and trustworthy as they are today. To the best of my knowledge, The Measurement Standards Division funds a majority of their costs through their licensing and enforcement. As an outsider looking in, I feel we have a department that is looking out for the public and doing a really good jobs with the funds allocated to them.

Thank You

Steven W Orr
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