



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

May 31, 2019

Rep. Barbara Smith-Warner
H-286 900 Court Street N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Smith-Warner:

Re: Washington County's Support For HB 3431A---Food Vending Services In Public Facilities

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 3431A, during recent hearings of the House Rules Committee, and for the strong support that bill received (57-3) when you carried the bill on the floor on May 28.

You have already provided your colleagues with an extensive list of public facilities and venues that will continue to give priority and preferential consideration to blind concessionaires and food vending services, including our state capitol, county courthouses, city halls, civic centers, public libraries, police and fire stations, parks and ranger stations, and more. But you had also asked Washington County for a pledge of support for blind food service businesses and their workers operating in these public facilities.

On the same day you carried HB 3431A to the House floor, Washington County's (5-member) Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the following statement, and asked me to respond to your request.

"Washington County understands and supports the need to provide employment and contracting opportunities to blind persons. This is entirely consistent with our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in public contracting and employment. We look forward to continued conversation with the Commission for the Blind and local business owners to find ways we can support their mission, while also supporting the DEI goals of the County in other public facilities."

I will also be submitting this pledge to OLIS as part of the official record for this bill, as it moves to the Senate Rules Committee, and will present this statement for the record if I am given the opportunity called to testify next week.

Thank you again for your consideration and support of HB 3431A, and contact me at any of the listings shown below if I can be of further assistance.

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