November 12, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Riley and Nathanson, and Members of the Joint Information Management and Technology Committee,

Local governments run public safety departments, public health departments, critical infrastructure (water, sewer, electric, etc.) and more. Thus, local governments access and store considerable amounts of sensitive information, such as addresses, driver's license numbers, credit card numbers, social security numbers, and medical information. At the same time, local governments are continuing to move services online because of the COVID-19 pandemic; the proliferation of the Internet of Things and smart devices is increasing; and society as a whole is becoming more technologically advanced, which requires constant updating and maintenance of systems. Recently, local government entities in Oregon have been victims of cyber-attacks and that trend is growing. For these reasons, cybersecurity and IT modernization are a high priority for local governments.

Many local governments operate under financial constraints, sometimes severe ones, that limit their ability to acquire and implement best practices surrounding cybersecurity technology, policies, and practices. Furthermore, many local governments are operating on outdated or legacy systems. Typically, only the largest local governments have fulltime IT staff and the ability to adequately train their employees and purchase the necessary tools to protect their IT infrastructure. Local governments need the state's help to invest in cybersecurity and IT modernizations programs that will benefit all government entities trying to protect the data and information they have been trusted to keep. Local governments need:

- **Funding.** Local government's direly need funds for system upgrades and modernization, whether it be for hardware or software needs;
- **Technical Assistance.** Potential assistance could include grant writing for federal programs, assistance with cybersecurity response plans or vulnerability assessments; and
- **Education** and/or training on best practices and other low-cost solutions local governments can implement now.

We, the undersigned entities, look forward to working with the Legislature to find solutions to keep all levels of government operating securely online as technology continues to advance.

Sincerely,

Association of Oregon Counties
League of Oregon Cities
Special Districts Association of Oregon