

February 4, 2022

Oregon House, Committee on Revenue
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair

RE: HB 4115

Honorable Chair Nathanson, and members of the Revenue Committee,

I write in regards to HB 4115. Section 2 addresses public records. I'm a journalist and participate actively in public records policy in Oregon through service on both a nonprofit board and a government advisory council. Here I am writing in my own personal capacity.

Section 2 of HB 4115 directs the Oregon Investment Council to make "publicly available" a complete list of assets held in investment funds. It is my understanding that those records are currently available through public records requests. I believe the intent of this legislation is to make such a list routinely published, so that records requests would not be necessary.

If that is the intent, I believe the bill is worth supporting. Records requests can be time-consuming for staff, which in turn affects requestors' ability to receive information in a timely manner. Delays in sharing public information, while certainly understandable from a staffing perspective, can have a direct impact on public discussion of and implementation of policies.

A laudable trend in public records is to identify information that is generally of interest to the public, and make it readily available *without requiring* a public records request. This saves time and money in the not-so-long run.

Some examples of this approach are [Portland's property tax records](#) and [Salem's permit database](#).

How OIC invests public funds is of demonstrable public interest. I would encourage the Committee to support this bill.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily G. Harris".

Emily Harris