



February 9, 2022

2022 Oregon Legislature
House Committee on Rules

Subject: HB 4140 -2

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, Members of the House Committee on Rules:

AOC advocates on matters of importance to Oregon's 36 county governments and I'm writing today in opposition to HB 4140 and the accompanying -2 amendment as written.

Expanding the investigatory purview of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission would entail greatly increasing the size of the agency. OGEC's work is funded via a rate placed on all public bodies, as outlined in Section 4 of the -2 amendment. As reported by Commission staff in a workgroup meeting on this bill, doubling the size of the Commission would require doubling this rate. This fact functionally means that good local government actors would be paying for investigations into bad local government actors, at taxpayer expense and within constrained local budgets. AOC would prefer an alternative funding mechanism for this expanded OGEC work so that those local budgets are protected.

AOC is also concerned by the amount of discretion given in this measure to OGEC over what meets the threshold for investigation. We would suggest that the Legislature consider putting more sideboards on this broad agency authority into the measure and legislative record.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler Janzen
AOC Legislative Affairs Manager, Governance and Revenue

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