



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

**The League of Oregon Cities supports HB 4155.**

Cities run public safety departments, critical infrastructure (water, sewer, electric, etc.) and more. Thus, cities 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, cities 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 cities.

Many cities 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 Furthermore, many cities are operating on outdated or legacy systems.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. Cities need:

- **Funding.** Cities 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.

HB 4155 would fit all of the needs identified above for cities, but also address broader systemic problems facing the state of Oregon when it comes to cybersecurity. HB 4155 would:

- **Leverage federal funding intended for local governments.** Congress recently passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that contained the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. Under that grant program, the state will be required to pass on 80% of those funds to local governments. HB 4155 would create a place for those federal dollars to land.
- **Create partnerships and promote cybersecurity culture across sectors.** No one entity alone will be able to solve all cybersecurity vulnerabilities, but together we can give the

most people the best chance to identify, defend against, and recover from cyber threats. The Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCOE) and the revised Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council will bring together sectors to work together on cybersecurity issues they are facing.

- **Create a pipeline for the cybersecurity workforce that benefit local governments and private sector.** Some cities have very small staff and cannot hire full time IT staff or cybersecurity professionals. Other cities would like to hire a full time IT staff or cybersecurity professionals, but they cannot compete with the private sector. The CCOE, through the leadership of OSU, PSU and UO, will provide technical expertise to local governments through a “teaching hospital model” as students gain hands on cybersecurity experience and prepare for potential roles in the public or private sector after graduation.

The LOC urges the committee’s support on HB 4155.

Respectfully,

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