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June 6, 2023

Senate Human Service Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Public Testimony in Support of SB 606

On behalf of Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK), I urge you to support SB 606, the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access, and education. A large portion of our work is focused on protecting vulnerable communities in our watershed from the impacts of a changing climate and protecting water quality for more than half a million residents who rely upon it.

Even as our work becomes increasingly critical, our struggle to retain employees necessary to achieve this mission has neared a critical stage. While we have found some success in building our base of donors, that success has been outstripped by the rising cost of living, causing significant turnover in the organization over the past year.

Two particular components of the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act – eliminating reimbursement for state contracts and creation of the Nonprofit Workforce Retention Fund – would dramatically improve the stability of our organization. Each of these aspects would allow TRK to better cultivate relationships with donors and partners. Rather than feeling we need to quickly complete contracts in order to receive reimbursement, we could work with more intentionality and planning, while retaining staff with deeper relationships that lead to more sustainability for our organization and for the watershed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of a bill that we feel is important to the future of Oregon. Please do reach out if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Glenn Fee
Executive Director
Tualatin Riverkeepers
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