

Submitter: Julie Fitzgerald
On Behalf Of: Oregon Zoo Foundation
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: SB1064

RE: SB 1064 - Relating to signature collection for charitable checkoff participation,

Dear Chair Representative Nancy Nathanson, Oregon House of Representatives Revenue Committee, Committee Vice-Chair Representative E. Werner Reschke, Committee Vice-Chair Representative Jules Walters, and Committee Members Representative Bobby Levy, Representative Pam Marsh, Representative Daniel Nguyen and Representative Greg Smith:

The Oregon Zoo Foundation, of which I am Executive Director, asks you to support SB 1064 with a do pass vote at the hearing before the Oregon House of Representatives Revenue Committee scheduled for June 22, 2023. The purpose of SB 1064 is to modernize the signature requirement by establishing an electronic means for collection of signatures in support of the gathering nonprofit to receive contributions as part of the tax filing process. I am also writing in my capacity as a long time leader in Oregon's non-profit sector and as past co-chair of the Oregon and SW Washington Chapter of Fundraising Executives.

We work alongside many outstanding Oregon-based 501(c)3 organizations that enrich lives and build vitally needed resources for Oregonians. Nonprofit organizations like the Oregon Zoo Foundation, the High Desert Museum, the Nonprofit Association of Oregon, Boys & Girls Clubs, the 4-H Foundation, the Oregon Ballet Theater, the Oregon Symphony, Trillium Family Services, Oregon Coast Aquarium, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross enrich lives and build futures in unique ways that cannot be replicated by the government or by the private sector. In today's world, the success of Oregon's charitable sector is more important than ever.

- We see the current requirements as inequitable and onerous by virtue of the fact that no new charities have been added by the Oregon Charitable Commission in almost ten years.
- Organizations that meet the basic requirements and have experienced what we believe to be unnecessary and inefficient use of financial, human and natural resources in trying to meet the requirements in the time period required.
- The last charity to apply and be accepted by the commission did so not through a grass-roots method, but by contracting with a paid signature collection service, demonstrating the impractical nature of the current rules.
- Agencies contacted by the Oregon Zoo Foundation who did use paid signature gatherers a decade or more in the past, spent more than \$200,000. With inflation, that cost would be significantly more today.

- The absence of new qualified charitable entities over a decade demonstrates that the physical signature collection standard is too demanding to be practical. In fact, we argue this process excludes many otherwise qualified organizations.

The change to a properly validated electronic signature method would reduce significant waste of staff time, paper, postage, fuel, and cost, and would improve access to this important financial resource for nonprofits serving communities throughout the region. We urge the legislature to modernize this process to make access to much-needed financial support more equitable for nonprofits serving communities across Oregon.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions. Thank you for your consideration!

Regards,