



June 22, 2023
House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

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

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke, Walters, and committee members Levy, Marsh, Nguyen, and Smith,

The Oregon Zoo Foundation asks you to support SB 1064 with a do pass vote at the hearing scheduled for June 22, 2023. The purpose of SB 1064 is to modernize the signature gathering 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.

We work alongside many outstanding Oregon-based 501(c)3 organizations that enrich lives and build vitally needed resources for Oregonians. Nonprofits 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 found 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.
- The absence of new qualified charitable entities over a decade demonstrates that the physical signature collection standard is too demanding to be practical.
- We urge the legislature to reconsider this process to make access to much-needed financial support more equitable for nonprofits serving communities across Oregon.
- 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.

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

Sincerely,

Julie Fitzgerald

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Fitzgerald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Fitzgerald, CFRE
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A better future for wildlife.
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