



**SB 877 Testimony in support on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties  
Senate Committee on Rules**

February 23, 2023

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

My name is Gina Nikkel, and I am the executive director of Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) and I am here today testifying on behalf of the members of AOC. **AOC strongly supports SB 877.**

AOC's legislative committee voted to support SB 877 on February 6, 2023. At the time, the bill was HB 2244. Senator David Brock Smith testified to AOC's support of the concept of HB 2244 to the House Committee on Rules in January 2023, prior to AOC taking a formal position, because of AOC's involvement in past Legislative Session bills that were crafted to address this issue.

SB 877 addresses a unique problem for Douglas County where, due to various appointments and resignations, all county commissioners are on the same election cycle. Having all three commissioners on the same cycle results in loss of institutional knowledge and has the potential of eroding public trust in a government institution. While this is a unique problem to Douglas County, AOC is in support because all counties have the albeit small but still real potential to be in the same situation.

The fix for this problem is targeted and minimizes any unintended consequences.

We strongly urge you to pass SB 877.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Gina Firman Nikkel, Ph.D.  
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