

northwest

REGISTERED AGENT

Corporation Division
Oregon Secretary of State
255 Capitol St. NE, Suite 151
Salem OR 97310

April 4, 2023

RE: HB 5035

To whom it may concern,

Northwest Registered Agent (“NWRA”) would like to express its support of House Bill 5035. NWRA believes that the appropriation of moneys from the General Fund to the Secretary of State (“SOS”) is essential to achieving the important objectives of the SOS, including the continued development and overall security of all businesses in the State of Oregon.

NWRA provides registered agent and business filing services to client entities all over the nation, with thousands of clients within the State of Oregon. The vast majority of the business filings submitted by NWRA are done online through states’ online filing systems. Advances in technology, specifically Application Programming Interface (“API”) have allowed NWRA to process business filings with greater ease and security; however, due to budget constraints, many states have not yet upgraded their business filing systems to integrate API functionality. States that have not yet adopted API, or at least fully integrated online filing systems, often create difficulties in the filing process, such as delay or loss of filings. Further, the lack of technological innovation and integration makes these states less enticing to entrepreneurs seeking to form new businesses.

Although business formations in Oregon are relatively streamlined, ancillary filings such as Amendment and Dissolution/Withdrawal are still done via paper forms that must be submitted via mail or fax. These systems are both extremely antiquated and lacking in proper security, especially when compared to modernized online filing systems. Further, the lack of automation places unnecessary burdens on the Corporation Division in that the manual review of filings is required. The inability to track filings also inundates the Corporation Division with phone-calls from business services entities like NWRA as well as the myriad of business owners registered with the SOS. As such, the current software and filing procedures used by the SOS not only inhibit business functionality and security, but also put undue pressure upon Corporation Division employees. By upgrading its business filing system, the State of Oregon could promote business growth and security as well as reduce the labor hours needed to process business filings. However, these benefits will not come to fruition if HB 5035 is not approved.

In summation, NWRA humbly asks that HB 5035 be approved so that the Oregon Secretary of State may receive the funds necessary to achieve its various objectives, including the modernization of its business filing system.

Please contact us with any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Scholl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

David Scholl
Legal Dept.
Northwest Registered Agent