



February 6, 2024

TO: Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

FR: Derek Sangston, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Support for HB 4101

Chair Bynum, Vice-chairs Diehl and Nguyen, members of the committee. For the record, my name is Derek Sangston, policy director and counsel for Oregon Business & Industry (OBI).

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4101. OBI supports this bill because the information it would allow businesses to voluntarily provide would be helpful in ensuring every business is able to participate in the state's public procurement process. This is especially true since the Oregon Department of Administrative Services found that the state is severely underutilizing businesses owned by culturally specific populations and veterans.

Currently, there is no centralized location to identify the number and performance of businesses in Oregon based on their ethnicity, gender or veteran status. Storing this information within the Oregon Secretary of State business registry, as HB 4101 would do, would not only create the much-needed central hub to provide information about who is operating businesses in Oregon, but it also would allow the Secretary of State's Office to securely share that information with state agencies and community-based organizations committed to the economic development of all businesses operating in Oregon.

Improving Oregon's business landscape requires us to know who is conducting business in the state and where disparities in economic opportunity are most prevalent. HB 4101 would create a system for the state to expand opportunities for economic development and achieve greater equity in Oregon's procurement system.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 4101.

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