



February 6th 2024

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Diehl and Nguyen, and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

My name is Jon Isaacs, and I am the Executive Vice President of Public Affairs for the Portland Metro Chamber. The Portland Metro Chamber (The Chamber) is greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. The Alliance advocates for business at all levels of government to support commerce, community health and the region's overall prosperity. We represent more than 2,300 members, from 27 counties, 13 states and virtually every industry sector. More than 80% of our members are small businesses.

I am writing today to express The Chamber's strong support for House Bill 4101, which will allow businesses registering with the Oregon Secretary of State's office to voluntarily attest to their their ethnicity, gender and veteran status.

Currently, there is no centralized location to identify the number and performance of businesses in Oregon based on their ethnicity, gender or veteran status. Having this information is as critical as ever given the recent [disparity study](#) published by the Department of Administrative Services that found Oregon is severely underutilizing businesses owned by specific populations and veterans in public procurement.

The Oregon Secretary of State business registry provides a perfect location for businesses to voluntarily provide their demographic information. This would be particularly helpful to businesses and organizations like ours that have adopted a policy of prioritizing contracting with minority, women, and veteran owned businesses. A centralized business registry would be an invaluable tool for meeting our contracting goals.

In addition to creating a central hub to understand who is operating business in Oregon, House Bill 4101 will further allow the Secretary of State office to securely share gathered information with state agencies and community-based organizations that are dedicated to advancing the economic development of all businesses operating Oregon.

Fully understanding Oregon's business landscape requires us to know who is conducting business in Oregon and where disparities in economic opportunity are most prevalent. Bill 4101 will create a system for Oregon to expand opportunities for economic development and greater equality in our state's procurement system.

For these reasons we urge you to support House Bill 4101. Thank you.

Jon Isaacs (*he/him*)

Executive Vice President, Public Affairs

PORTLAND METRO CHAMBER

p: 503-224-8684 | m: 503-757-5721 | jon@portlandmetrochamber.com

Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce

DowntownPortland.org | Portlandmetrochamber.com | PartnersinDiversity.org