



February 6, 2024

Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 4153, Creating a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Dear Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Nathanson, and members of the committee:

The Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) is the force behind the regional tech industry – supporting entrepreneurs, connecting peers and decision makers statewide, and helping establish the Northwest as a global hub for innovation. We work with over 500 tech and tech-enabled companies throughout Oregon, ranging in size from one-person startups to some of the largest tech companies in the world.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4153.

TAO is grateful to Rep. Nguyen and his office for their intentional outreach to the technology and business communities during the drafting process of this bill. Oregon is just beginning to engage in conversations about the benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the potential for adoption of AI in our work and daily lives, and the role the state may need to play in ensuring its used safely and responsibly. It's important that as we engage on that work, we are operating from a shared understanding of the related terms and definitions. We also know that significant time and effort has been spent at the federal level to accurately define AI and related terms and TAO appreciates that the work of this task force begins with reviewing and potentially recommending those definitions.

TAO is also grateful that HB 4153 includes spots for three business associations. We understand that the intention is for those spots to be filled by TAO, TechNet and Oregon Business and Industry (OBI), ensuring the entities developing and utilizing AI have a seat at the table for these important, early conversations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support for HB 4153.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Skip Newberry".

Skip Newberry
President & CEO, Technology Association of Oregon