

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly:

Subject: UPDATE: Vote Yes on HB 4162 as amended

I support the passage of this bill with the -2 amendment.

I have a bit of egg on my face: I should have sent a few emails asking for clarification before “leaping before I looked” and submitting public testimony complaining about excessive administrative costs.

Other advocates kindly contacted me after I posted my original letter to help clarify the intent of the bill, and they explained what exactly was going on with some of the bill’s confusing language. Among other issues, it’s now my understanding that the introduced bill violated procedural rules regarding appropriations. A violation which I believe partially contributed to my incorrect understanding of the bill’s intentions.

My incorrect understanding, as you can see outlined my previous letter, was that there was to be a single new grant program oddly funneled through a weird-but-plausible-to-me HECC budget mechanism. In reality, it is now my understanding that these were two separate funding concepts simply put into this one bill when it was introduced. My incorrect understanding led to equally incorrect and nonsensical concerns about unusually high administrative overhead. In the classes I teach, I often echo the advice from Ms. Frizzle from the Magic School Bus: “*Take Chances! Make Mistakes! Get Messy!*” Thank you for indulging in my mistake here.

The -2 amendment significantly clarifies the bill. It is also my understanding that the -2 amendment makes the bill compliant with procedural rules. Given these developments, I withdraw my earlier stated concerns about administrative overhead for this bill while reiterating the general importance of keeping administrative costs prudently low. In light of the -2 amendment, I once again urge this bill’s passage and have no further concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Schwartz", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Sam Schwartz, PhD Candidate
Department of Computer Science
University of Oregon