



February 10, 2024

Oregon State Senate Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St, NE  
Salem Oregon 987301

Dear Senate Committee on Rules:

I am writing to express my support of SB 1539.

The Black Business Association of Oregon (BBAO) is an economic development organization that strives to achieve economic equity that is sustainable and lasting in the state of Oregon. An important part of our work is to collaborate with our elected officials to develop policies that lead to large-scale changes that bring about equity across the state of Oregon.

Youth sports is important to the development of our young people in the state of Oregon. All across our state, local governments work hard to fund youth sporting events to make sure that our young people have the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the physical activities that keep them healthy and vibrant. As the population of our youth increases it is important for us to make sure that local governments have the resources they need to continue funding youth sporting events. SB 1539 assist local communities with their efforts to host youth sporting events and keep the expenses down for everyone who wants to participate.

SB 1539 is particularly important for young people in Black communities because youth sports programs provide an opportunity for them to interact with other communities in the spirit of teamwork, competition and friendship.

I believe that a collaboration with the Oregon Tourism Commission and Sport Oregon will ensure that funds allocated to support youth sports will be utilized equitably and efficiently by local governments bodies across the state.

I encourage you to support SB 1539 so that all youth in Oregon will have an opportunity to participate in sporting events that will build comradery and friendship and prepare them to be our future leaders.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance".

Lance J. Randall  
Executive Director

The preamble of Policy Point 9 states, “It’s time to rethink how we organize for economic development. Effective economic development efforts bring community leaders together to provide responsive services and to make the case for doing business here. Currently, Oregon’s public and private efforts are well-meaning, but scattered and misaligned. As a result, Oregon is missing opportunities to create, recruit and grow businesses.”

One of the 3 recommendations in this section is to, **“Create a state-level forum to identify and address the specific challenges of minority and women owned businesses.”**

To be successful with this recommendation, it is important for the state to be able to identify the individual businesses that are owned by people of color and where their businesses are physically located. This is the best way to identify and address specific challenges of businesses owned by people of color.

State Representative Janelle Bynum State Representative supported by her colleagues, have introduced Oregon House Bill 4101 which authorizes the Secretary of State to collect, share and communicate with approved organizations, information about ethnicity, gender, and veteran status of businesses that have chosen to operate in Oregon.

This legislation calls for the establishment of a Business Registration Information Center within the Office of the Secretary of State to collect culturally specific data from existing and new registrants and share the information with community-based organizations that foster economic development culturally specific businesses. The data will make it easier for these economic development organizations to find all of businesses that already exist and help them grow, hire employees, increase their revenues, and pay more taxes. When all businesses are doing well in the state, Oregon’s economy will be stronger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lance".

Lance J. Randall  
Executive Director  
Black Business Association of Oregon