

February 12th, 2024

My name is Magda Y. Bejarano, and I am writing in support of HB 1533.

Oregon is a diverse state. Some Oregonians are English learners, and some speak a non-English language better than they speak English. We all live here and want to participate and belong.

Elections are the quintessential expression of democracy, plurality, and diversity. Voting is one crucial way in which community members can collectively help build the community they want to live in. HB1533 provides an avenue for community members who speak languages other than English to join this important space of collective building.

I also believe that HB1533 would help build upon the knowledge gained by the Secretary of State through the work done in the last few years to make voting materials available in languages other than English and would engage the perspective and experience of more Oregonians through the Translation Advisory Council.

I am asking that you work to approve HB1533 and to help Oregon's election process be more reflective of the diversity and current demographics of the State and that you consider including materials in ASL.