



Written Testimony in Support of HB 5006

Steve Corbató, corbato@linkoregon.org

Prepared for Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 10:00 a.m. PDT

Mt. Hood Community College Theater, 26000 S.E. Stark Street, Gresham, Oregon

Co-chair Lieber, Co-chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Steve Corbató, and I reside in southwest Portland. For the record, I am employed by OHSU, but am fully detailed to the non-profit organization that I represent. I am speaking in support of HB 5006 and several pending bills that may be referred to this committee.

I serve as the executive director of Link Oregon, the non-profit organization established by the State's Enterprise Information Services division and the four largest public research universities. Link Oregon's principal mission is to operate a statewide, middle-mile network to serve the requirements of our founding members and our partners in the public and the non-profit sectors across the state. Robust network services are a critical element in the state's telecommunications and information technology ecosystems, so with our strategic board's support, we regularly take positions on measures concerning information technologies, including broadband, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.

HB 3148 will create the Oregon Lifeline program by modernizing the existing Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) under the Public Utility Commission to accommodate the fundamental changes in telecommunications during the broadband era. Oregon Lifeline will provide eligible recipients with up to \$15 of monthly support and \$100 of one-time assistance for purchases of connecting devices. This action is particularly important considering the federal government's failure last year to renew the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program enacted during the pandemic.

HB 3219 will establish sustained state funding for our partner, the Oregon Hazards Lab (OHAZ) at the University of Oregon at the level of \$8.1 million for the biennium. OHAZ is a critical asset for disaster preparedness and response efforts in Oregon. The innovative OHAZ system provides real-time, life-saving information that assists emergency responders and communities mitigate the impact of earthquakes, wildfires, and other disasters.

HB 3228 charges our partner organization, the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (OCCOE), to assess a timely, critical topic, the use of cybersecurity insurance within the public

sector in Oregon. The bill also creates the Oregon Cybersecurity Resilience Fund that could enable the OCCOE to address future cybersecurity insurance gaps in the public sector and to respond to cyberattacks, data breaches, and other security incidents.

Finally, HB 3230 will charge the State Chief Information Officer to engage a third party to assess the current state of information technology across state government and to identify potential means of improvement. In our view, the delivery of IT services across the many state agencies in Salem – with the notable exception of cybersecurity – remains a highly distributed activity and presents many opportunities for greater coordination and cost efficiencies.

Link Oregon supports HB 5006 along with HB 3147, HB 3219, HB 3228, and HB 3230.

Thank you very much for your attention to these remarks and consideration of these bills.