



Daniel Scotton
Executive Director
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

April 9th, 2025

Testimony supporting SB602

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Rules Committee members:

My name is Daniel Scotton, and I am writing on behalf of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN), a grassroots climate education 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization representing over 2,000 engaged Southern Oregonians committed to science-based climate education. I offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 602, the Nonprofit Grant and Contract Modernization Act.

Senate Bill 602 represents a long-overdue opportunity to affirm the essential role of nonprofits and the often under-recognized work they contribute to our public infrastructure. Nonprofits are not peripheral to public work—they are essential. Nonprofits are the connective tissue that enables public service infrastructure to function. From rural climate education efforts to mental health support in frontline communities, our industry's staff and volunteers are often the first—and sometimes only—responders to overlapping social and ecological crises.

SB602 has many positive elements, but to highlight a few core strengths, it would:

- Create a Nonprofit Organization Advisory Council: this council would collaborate with the Department of Administrative Services to ensure that state-level contract reforms are informed by on-the-ground experiences, and;
- Standardized Contracts and Indirect Rate Compliance: allowing for stronger alignment with the Office of Management and Budget guidelines, which will allow nonprofits to more accurately share and account for administrative costs—promoting sustainability in the ecosystem, and;
- Create a Centralized Grant Database: this database would allow for a more equitable playing field when it comes to the distribution of state contracts, ensuring that rural nonprofits face fewer administrative burdens and enjoy increased access to state contracts, freeing up their time to focus on the delivery of services.

And yet, for too long, our systems of public contracting have not reflected the complexity or value of that work. What SB 602 proposes is not just a procedural update; it's a rebalancing of trust. It recognizes that effective, accountable service delivery *requires* infrastructure—not just

physical infrastructure, but also relationships, in transparent processes, and in sustainable funding models.

We imagine an Oregon where state agencies and nonprofits work in partnership, not just in name, but in practice. Where service contracts reflect the full cost of doing good work. Where data systems are transparent and efficient. And where relationships—not just deliverables—are at the heart of public service.

SB 602 is a step toward that vision. We urge this committee to pass it, and in doing so, affirm the nonprofit sector as a vital thread in the fabric of Oregon's future.

Thank you for your time, your work, and your partnership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Scotton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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