

Submitter: Michael Tiebout

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1563

To: Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary From: Michael Tiebout, Junction City, OR Date: February 4, 2026 Re: Support for SB 1563 – Relating to Civil Rights and Government Accountability

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Michael Tiebout, and I am a resident of Junction City. I am writing today to express my strong support for SB 1563.

As someone who has spent over 20 years working in IT, I understand the importance of system integrity. When a system—whether it's a computer network or a legal framework—lacks a mechanism for accountability when things go wrong, the entire system loses trust. Currently, Oregonians face a "gap" where their state constitutional rights can be violated by those acting under color of law. Yet, there is often no direct path in state court to seek meaningful relief or damages.

SB 1563 fixes this by providing a clear, state-level cause of action for violations of our Article I rights. I support this bill for three primary reasons:

1. **Accountability:** Government officials and law enforcement must be held to the same high standards as the citizens they serve. This bill ensures that constitutional rights are not just theoretical "rules on paper" but are enforceable.
2. **Access to Justice:** By allowing for the recovery of attorney fees, this bill ensures that everyday Oregonians—not just the wealthy—can afford to defend their rights in court when they have been wronged.
3. **Efficiency:** Providing a clear path in state court may reduce the need to move these cases to the federal level, keeping Oregon's legal matters within our own judicial system.

Our rights are only as strong as our ability to defend them. SB 1563 is a common-sense step toward ensuring that "government by the people" remains a government accountable to the people.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 1563. Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Michael Tiebout Junction City, Oregon