

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg, and I am a current Beaverton City Councilor submitting testimony in my personal capacity.

I want to thank Rep. Chotzen for convening this group and helping defend Oregon from federal overreach. I strongly support the Recourse Act (HB 4143) because in these uncertain times, we need to take the necessary steps to protect the resources that belong to Oregonians.

When Congress appropriates money and directs it to the states, that should be the end of the story. There is no asterisk and no hidden clause that allows a President to unilaterally block those funds. A Congressional appropriation is meant to be ironclad, not dictated by any individual; the only way to override it is if the United States Supreme Court rules otherwise.

The founders of this nation made it clear that Congress, the legislative branch, holds the power of the purse, not the executive. HB 4143 reinforces that principle. It establishes thoughtful guardrails that do not concentrate authority in a single office. Instead, it requires a collective decision involving the Governor, AND the Attorney General, AND the State Treasurer. That structure ensures accountability and prevents any one individual from overstepping their role.

Oregonians deserve creative, proactive ideas like this to safeguard the resources our state relies on. HB 4143 strengthens our ability to uphold the constitutional balance of powers and prevents any attempt to grant the executive authority greater than it was ever intended to wield.