



City Manager's Office

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February 23, 2026

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 4177, HB 4161, and HB 4159

On behalf of the City of Oregon City, I am writing to express our support for **HB 4177, HB 4161, and HB 4159**. These bills provide important clarity in Oregon's public meetings framework—particularly by better distinguishing **deliberation** from permissible **information gathering** and other non-deliberative communications.

HB 4177 strengthens shared understanding of what constitutes “deliberation” by clarifying that deliberation is discussion or communication in which members “examine, weigh or reflect upon the reasons for or against a decision” subject to the governing body's authority.

This distinction matters for local governments that work hard to comply with transparency requirements while also needing practical ways to learn, ask questions, and gather information before public decision points.

HB 4161 also undoes OGEC's recent food and beverage interpretation, and **HB 4159** ensures that OGEC has a local government voice on its commission.

We also **appreciate and thank the Legislature and committees** for their work to address language of concern related to **administrative error** in HB 4177.

For these reasons, **we support HB 4177, HB 4161, and HB 4159** and respectfully request your **support with an affirmative vote** as the bills move through the legislative process. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work to strengthen transparent, workable governance in Oregon. Please feel free to contact me at tkonkol@orcity.org if you would like additional perspective from local government practitioners.

Sincerely,

Tony Konkol
City Manager, Oregon City