

Sisters, OR 97759  
February 9, 2026

**TESTIMONY RE: HB 4145**

**COMMENT: Vote NO on HB 4145!**

I strongly oppose HB 4145. This is yet another attempt of subversion of the ballot initiative process, undermining democratic legitimacy and forcing through a contentious bill with an “emergency clause” — making it take effect immediately upon signature — risks circumventing meaningful public scrutiny and public accountability.

While presented as implementation of a voter-approved measure, this bill makes significant changes that voters never authorized. HB 4145 doubles the permit processing time from 30 to 60 days and raises the fee from \$65 to \$150—an increase of more than 130%. These changes create unnecessary delays and financial barriers for law-abiding citizens exercising a constitutional right.

Additionally, given the controversy surrounding Jason Kropf and the broader concerns about how this process has been handled, this legislation should not have moved forward in its current form. Public trust in the legislative process depends on transparency and fairness—both of which have been called into question.

The Senate’s role is not merely to ratify House action, but to act as an independent body ensuring that legislation has been developed through fair and transparent means. Proceeding with HB 4145 without addressing credible concerns about committee conduct risks:

- \* Undermining public confidence in the legislative process.
- \* Signaling tolerance for coercive or improper influence in committee deliberations.
- \* Weakening the Senate’s responsibility as an institutional check.

Voters approved a specific measure, not a rewritten version with higher costs, longer delays, special carve-outs, and a delayed implementation pushed to January 2028.

**HB 4145 exceeds voter intent and should be rejected**

**E. D. Johnson**