TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

February 6, 2017

Alex Pettit
Office of the State CIO
Executive Building
Fourth Floor, 155 Cottage Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Alex,

I am writing on behalf of the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) to express our support for SB 90, which calls for the unification of IT security within the executive branch under the authority of the State CIO and the establishment of a Cyber Security Center of Excellence to coordinate cyber incident response, share information among private and public partners, identify best practices, encourage the development of a cyber-ready workforce, and develop a statewide cyber security strategy.

TAO represents over 425 member companies in Oregon and SW Washington ranging from some of the largest tech companies in the world to small, early-stage startups and "tech enabled" companies that are utilizing and developing technology to drive innovation across the enterprise. TAO's mission is to develop a world-class, inclusive, innovation-based economy in Oregon powered by a vibrant technology industry. Cyber security is a topic of critical importance to TAO's members and is essential to the health of any state's economy. It is the foundation for trust in any institution that develops and/or utilizes technologies by which services are delivered to customers or constituents.

Over the past several years, the State of Oregon has experienced a number of high-profile security breaches involving the theft of sensitive data of Oregon residents and businesses. Cyber security threats are asymmetrical and often target vulnerable entities that offer easy points of entry to networks and data. Oregon's current model of decentralized cyber security functions is a liability for the State in that it places even the largest government agencies at risk. Centralizing IT security functions would bring Oregon into line with accepted best practices for state governments seeking to address cyber security threats.

In a recent *CyberStates* report, CompTIA, a national IT trade association partner of TAO, found that IT security jobs experienced the greatest percentage increase year-over-year of all tech occupations nationally, including computer programmers. In surveys conducted around the state in conjunction with ETIC and the Oregon Talent Council, we have found consistently that cyber security jobs are one of the top three areas for growth in Oregon. Moreover, every organization's employees represent the first-line of defense in guarding against cyber threats. Cyber security skills specifically and a "cyber-aware" workforce more generally are in

high-demand across the private and public sectors, and the establishment of a Cyber Center of Excellence will provide a centralized resource to engage with education and workforce partners interested in aligning curricula and training resources with these career opportunities. The same cyber threats aimed at the private sector are also used against the public sector and vice versa, and a Cyber Center of Excellence will serve as a platform for the exchange of best practices and identified threats among local companies and government.

For all of these reasons, we strongly support the passage of SB 90. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Skip Newberry

President & CEO, Technology Association of Oregon