February 6, 2017

Rep. David Gromberg, Sen. Betsy Johnson Co-Vice Chair and all members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for this audience. I speak to you on behalf of the Oregon Real Estate Board. Today the Board unanimously endorsed the following statement:

The Oregon Real Estate Board supports House Bill 5037 and the increase of licensing fees therein. It has been our observation that the Oregon Real Estate Agency has been an exemplary steward of the funds received from applicants and licensees in the State over past years. More recently, the Agency has navigated exceptionally tumultuous economic times while remaining steadfast in their duties to the State. As practitioners, we appreciated The Agency's recognition of our challenges, and the effort to refrain from overburdening the real estate industry with the increase until post-recession. Now it is time to introduce the increase in fees to continue to be a viable, sustainable user-fee funded Agency.

Thank you for your consideration.

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