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To: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity  
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist  
Re: House Bill 2411  
Date: February 4, 2021

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Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Kate and Kropf, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2411.

School districts statewide have been severely challenged by the requirements posed by the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. Since early 2020, most students have been required to access instruction remotely, through comprehensive distance learning, which is often delivered online using real-time video conferencing tools. Access to appropriate and reliable high-speed internet is crucial for effective comprehensive distance learning.

In the midst of this ongoing pandemic, some school districts and communities were further ravaged by the wildfires of 2020. School districts including Phoenix-Talent, Santiam Canyon, and others were devastated. Large swaths of infrastructure and property were reduced to ash and rubble. They must be rebuilt.

House Bill 2411 would make modest changes to ease infrastructure planning and investment. These changes could make sure that expansion of high-speed internet service is a little bit easier to achieve, and that communities that have to rebuild their schools can do so with a little bit less bureaucratic encumbrance.

Thank you for your time. Please support HB 2411.