

**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
On HB 4092**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 4092.

There is no area of our modern society that does not depend on strong, affordable, accessible internet access. From health care to education, from jobs to transportation options, from natural resources management to social services such as libraries, from tools for participation in the political process to tools for planning recreational activities, Oregonians need to have internet service they can afford and that they can depend on. However, Oregon does not have a robust or equitable broadband system, and communities across the state experience access barriers in the form of service and affordability.

It is essential for the legislature to ensure that Oregon has the policies, programs and data in place to access and invest the over \$200M in federal monies available through the American Rescue Plan Act and Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act. HB 4092 will create the necessary structures and guidance to make that happen, and support Oregon's communities' access to critical connections.

OEC sees a key role for broadband in connecting people all across Oregon to the resources, services, education, and employment opportunities they need to thrive. Broadband access touches all of our work. We urge the committee to support HB 4092.