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To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: Senate Bill 271
Date: January 24, 2023

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 271.

Under existing ORS 330, the “governing body of a county shall constitute the district boundary board” for apportioning school district boundaries, and the counties are responsible for storing and maintaining school district boundary information.

As a service to our members and the Oregon education community, OSBA works with the Department of Administrative Services and other stakeholders to generate a map that accurately overlays school district boundary information with legislative district boundary information. After the 2021 legislative redistricting, we undertook to create an accurate version of this map. The making of these maps has been a challenge, in part because there is no best single source of school district boundary information at the state level.

With considerable staff time and attention, at OSBA we are close to generating maps that we consider reliable. However, this process has demonstrated that access to knowledge about school district boundaries would be much improved if there was a designated location within state government to store the district-specific information. SB 271 would require a one-time transfer of information to the Oregon Department of Education from counties, with an additional transfer in the future if school district boundaries change. This is a simple bill with a discrete ask to make existing boundary information more accessible. We ask for your support.