

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023
To: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
From: **Jack Gray, Oak Pond LLC**
Re: Support for Consistent Community Supervision, HB 2650

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, Vice-Chair Tran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jack Gray. I have been running a farm business for over 45 years. Through my work I've managed all aspects of the day to day farm operation as well as serving on the boards of a large produce distribution business and a purpose trust devoted to agriculture.

Our legislative process aspires to make laws that equitably serve us all. But when legislative workgroups and task forces lack diverse voices, the process often creates policies and rules that don't support – or worse, negatively affect – people across the state, particularly Black, Indigenous, Latine, and other Oregonians of color, as well as other historically underserved communities. By requiring that policy-making tables integrate community-based organizations and people with lived experience, Oregon would generate better and more equitable outcomes in housing, health, business, public safety, and education.

HB 2650 would ensure equitable policy outcomes by requiring task forces and workgroups to include the people who are most affected by these policies.

By passing HB 2650, Oregon's workgroup and task forces process would be more in line with our values by centering:

- **Lived experience:** At least half of workgroup and task force members will need to be representatives of people whose lives are directly impacted by the policies being discussed, community members, and community-based organizations.
- **Equity for historically underserved communities:** At least one-quarter of workgroups and task forces will need to be people who have been historically underserved.
- **Economic justice:** Compensate workgroup and task force members for their time and travel.

Over and over again in my business life, I have seen fairer and more effective decisions being made when those on the front line are involved. A diversity of opinions is always needed because “you don't know what you don't know”. Involving those who will be most impacted is a common sense best business practice. Creating and implementing equitable state policy should work the same way. Leaving decisions up to the professional implementers is asking for a one sided outcome. HB2650 is important to make sure that community experience is consistently applied to State decisions.

I urge you to support HB 2650 for more equitable outcomes across Oregon.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jack Gray

Oak Pond LLC

Noti, Oregon