

Sandy Weintraub, Director Oregon Law Commission

Testimony in support of SB 5512 on behalf of the Oregon Law Commission

Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Evans, for the record, my name is Sandy Weintraub and I serve and the Director of the Oregon Law Commission.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 5512 for the Oregon Judicial Division today where the budget of the Law Commission resides.

As a quick refresher, the Oregon Law Commission is the only non-partisan, legislatively affiliated law-reform organization in the State of Oregon.

Our mission is to review, revise and reenvision Oregon state laws that are not operating as efficiently, justly and for the benefit of the citizens of Oregon as they should be.

The law commission is composed of 15 members that include appointees from the legislative assembly, governor, attorney general, the Oregon State Bar, the three law schools in Oregon and 3 members of the judiciary.

Over the nearly 25-year history of the Commission, we have drafted dozens of successful bills on a wide variety of topics ranging from probate reform to bankruptcy to business law.

The Commission operates using the expertise of Oregon attorneys and other professionals who volunteer their time, often over the course of several years, to draft bills that are often exceptionally complex and require a high level of detailed scrutiny. Due to this diligence and the great fortune of our partnership with the professionals in the Legislative Counsel's office, Law Commission bills have greater than a 97% success rate of passage.

Our process goes to great lengths to seek partnership and scrutiny from all sides of a given topic and works on a consensus-based model whenever possible to ensure that there is strong support for the policies the Law Commission brings to the legislature.

Some recent success stories were projects that led to the creation of the first receivership program in Oregon for bankruptcy cases, a multi-year modernization of Oregon's probate statutes, and drafting bills that allowed both remote-notarization and remote-attestation during the 2020 and 2021 sessions when remote access to these services was crucial for the life decisions of Oregon citizens.

Currently, the Oregon Law Commission is sponsoring SB 909 which is the culmination of a 4-year process to modernization of statutes governing Limited Liability Corporations in Oregon. This bill comes from a work group that was led by new Law Commission Chair Valerie Sasaki that included an expert group of Oregon business attorneys who committed hundreds of hours to the project. If adopted, this bill will make it easier for Oregon LLCs to interact with those in

our neighboring states and should make Oregon an overall better legal environment for LLCs small and large.

Additionally, the Law Commission is working on a project, Co-Chaired by Commissioners Christa Obold Eshleman and Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Duncan to improve the process that citizens can appeal decisions made by municipal and justice courts throughout the state.

The commission is also seeking new project ideas which can come from members of the legislative assembly, attorneys and any citizen who feels that laws can be improved.

We are your law reform body, and if you have ideas for us on where to focus our next projects, please let us know. We are here for you.

We are fortunate to be housed at the University of Oregon School of Law in Eugene, where hire fellows who can gain valuable legislative experience assisting with the work groups.

The Oregon Law Commission sincerely appreciates the continued support of this committee and the Legislative Assembly and looks forward to you as a legislative body, the legal community and the citizens of Oregon moving forward.

I am happy to answer any questions if you have any for me.