

February 2, 2024

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

I am writing to express the Port of Portland's support for House Bill 4101, which will allow businesses registering or renewing with the Office of the Secretary of State to voluntarily attest their ethnicity, gender and veteran status.

Currently, there is no centralized location to identify the number and performance of businesses in Oregon based on their ethnicity, gender or veteran status. Knowing this information is critical given the recent disparity study published by the Department of Administrative Services that found Oregon is severely underutilizing businesses owned by culturally specific populations and veterans in public procurement.

The Secretary of State's business registry will provide a central location for businesses to voluntarily provide their demographic information. In addition to creating a hub to understand who is operating a business in Oregon, House Bill 4101 will further allow the Secretary of State to securely share gathered information with state agencies, community-based, and other organizations dedicated to advancing the economic development of businesses operating in Oregon.

Fully understanding Oregon's business landscape requires us to know who is conducting business in Oregon and where disparities in economic opportunity are most prevalent. Bill 4101 will create a system to inform opportunities that advance economic development and greater equality in Oregon's procurement system.

For these reasons I encourage you to support House Bill 4101.

Respectfully,

*Keith Leavitt*

Keith Leavitt  
Chief Trade and Economic Development Officer