League of Oregon City (LOC) Testimony in Support of HB 4153

Co-Chair Nathanson, Co-Chair Woods, and Members of the Joint Information Management and Technology Committee. My name is Nolan Pleše, lobbyist at the League of Oregon Cities.

Thank you all for having me here today. As many of you know, the League of Oregon Cities represents 241 cities, ranging from small, medium, to large communities with very diverse constituencies and experiences. It's that exact diversity and experience for why the LOC is supporting HB 4153.

Over the past year, many of us have been both amazed and possibly terrified, about the growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI). However, as most folks will tell you, AI is not new. All of us have been using AI for years and cities are no exception. Cities are using AI in a variety of ways; from smart city programs and data collection and storage to community safety and creating friendlier and more accessible governments. It's here to stay and will continue to evolve and change how our communities operate.

On the other hand, this moment in time has allowed us to take a step back and consider how we talk about and use these tools. As I have conversations with cities, academia, and tech, it has become clear that language and definitions are important. Differing definitions and use of language creates confusion, especially as cities and their communities navigate creating policies around the use of AI, how to protect sensitive data and do our best to avoid potential biases within AI and the individuals using it.

HB 4153 is simple in its goals, yet vitally important in the ever-evolving world of AI. As you all know better than most, words make all the difference in legislation and the impact it has. HB 4153 aims to create a shared understanding of language around AI, starting with a shared framework, and utilizing a diversity of members on a task force will produce better conversations and outcomes.

The LOC encourages your support of HB 4153. Thank you all for your time.

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