

Submitter: Brian Doherty
On Behalf Of: Irish Network Portland
Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
Measure: SB1516
Subject: SB 1516, Irish Trade Commission

Brian Doherty

I am a Retired Partner from Miller Nash and a Long time lobbyist in Salem until 2021 and lived in Ireland with my family for a year.

I am testifying today in support of SB 1516 and the -1 amendment, the Irish Trade Commission.

I have submitted a slide deck prepared by Greater Portland Inc. in July of 2023 regarding the economic relationship between Ireland and Oregon which I think you will find interesting. Skip to slide 18 as the first 17 are about all things Greater Portland Inc. Greater Portland Inc is a public-private partnership working to attract businesses to the entire Greater Portland region.

Slide 18 shows that Oregon is the fifth largest export Partner to Ireland in 2022 and that Ireland is the 5th largest import Partner into Oregon in 2022. Slide 20 shows Oregon is the #1 state for exports to Ireland.

The back story is Computer and Electronic Products. Leading that category is Intel, which has 3 Chip manufacturing plants in Ireland and 4 in Oregon. Recently we learned that Business Oregon has raised Ireland to an emerging nation status and is interested in attending Bioscience, Medical Devices or High Tech Trade Shows there in the Spring or late summer.

My firm Incorporated the Irish Network Portland in 2021. From the meetings with Greater Portland Inc., Business Oregon, the Mayor and the Governor's office, INP has set out to expand the economic, cultural and academic ties between Oregon and Ireland. This bill certainly tracks that effort.

Ireland's Diaspora in Oregon have been busy forming many associations, a few of which are INP, Portland Hibernian society, All Ireland Cultural Society, Corrib Theatre, GAA sports club (Hurling, Rugby, Soccer and Gaelic Football), MOD, which teaches Irish language and music.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian doherty