



February 11, 2025

**To: Representative Ben Bowman, Chair, House Committee on Rules**

**From: Will Rasmussen, Chair, Portland Metro Chamber**

**RE: Support for HB 2692**

Chair Bowman and members of the House Committee on Rules:

On behalf of the Portland Metro Chamber, I would like to express support for HB 2692 and the -1 amendment. This bill will bring transparency to rulemaking processes at Oregon's state agencies, and provide more meaningful opportunities for regulated entities to have input into the development of rules and regulations. Oregon businesses understand the need for reasonable regulation that protects public safety, the environment, and solves compelling problems. However, Oregon's approach to rulemaking makes it hard to track, engage and implement rules, and often leaves regulated entities out of the process in a meaningful way. This particularly impacts small business who don't have the staff or legal representation to navigate the complicated and opaque processes.

HB 2692 with the -1 amendment improves on Oregon's current rulemaking structure in a few practical ways:

1. To ensure that agencies understand how their rules will impact regulated entities, and to collaboratively develop rule language that works for business, HB 2692 requires that advisory committees with equal representation of regulated entities be appointed when there is a material change to rules, and that a meaningful assessment of the impact on small business be conducted.
2. To ensure that regulated entities, the public, legislators and other stakeholders know what rulemaking is happening, what information is being considered in a rulemaking, and what the intention of the rulemaking is, HB 2692 requires that advisory committee meetings be open to the public, provide opportunities for public comment, publish comments received, outline the problem the rule is intended to solve, and provide a report to Ways and Means for rules that are particularly costly.
3. To allow regulated entities to be made aware of rule changes and to give time to implement changes, HB 2692 moves timelines to the date the rule is filed with the Secretary of State, rather than the identified effective date, and provides 30 days for a rule to become effective after filing.

4. To ensure transparency, consistency and predictability, the -1 amendment to HB 2692 would prevent agencies from changing an interpretation of a rule or regulation or an officially stated agency position without an appropriate public rulemaking process.

These improvements to Oregon's regulatory processes will go a long way to improve the overall business climate, increase collaboration between agencies and businesses, and encourage business investment in Oregon. I urge your support of HB 2692.

Thank you for your consideration.

Will Rasmussen

Chair, Portland Metro Chamber