

Submitter: Heather Coffel
On Behalf Of: OSACA
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2351

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Isadore and Diehl, and members of the committee:

I'm writing as President of the Oregon State Association of County Assessors (OSACA) in opposition to HB 2351. We have a variety of concerns related to workload, release of confidential information, and other matters. There is -1 amendment in OLIS but it is unrelated to these concerns.

This legislation stems in part from long-standing disagreements between OBDD, county assessors, and others about data requests from OBDD related to Enterprise Zones. These concerns have existed for several years and we've made a number of attempts to resolve them. Several conversations have been held, but discussions did not continue and no resolution has yet been achieved. Please see the letter we've included in the record from 2021.

We would urge this committee to oppose this legislation, which would create an open-ended new authority and lacks the sort of structure and sidebars we'd need to see to be confident in productive outcomes. In fact, we are concerned that this legislation may actually create fresh conflict and confusion.

We would ask the committee instead to urge and perhaps even help facilitate a conversation amongst relevant parties. We are confident that through collaborative conversations we can both help the OBDD accomplish its objectives and avoid significant burdens and uncertainty to county assessors at a time when funding for the services we provide is dire and in continued decline.

Thank you,
Heather Coffel
Douglas County Assessor
OSACA President