

Submitter: Scott Beaver

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3213

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Fragala, Vice Chair Harbick, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Scott Beaver, and I am a faculty member at Western Oregon University. I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 3213, will raise Oregon's open government and public records standards by ensuring that public university foundations are subject to the public records laws of this state.

Why do I care about Foundation transparency? I do not have a personal story about it nor have I been thwarted in a search for how Foundation dollars are spent at WOU. But I will give a few clear reasons why HB 3213 should be passed and signed into law.

First, from the perspective of a donor, I want to know, I demand to know, how the organization to whom I am donating funds is using my money. Why wouldn't I have this right?

Second, even if I weren't a donor, I ask why would a public university hide how it is using foundation funds? And why would they oppose this bill? Don't they want to build trust with the taxpaying public and their donors?

It is honestly improper that public universities can spend endowment dollars in an inaccessible and opaque way. It is time to change this, and to have Oregon join the 22 states who have laws ensuring public university transparency.

Open financial practices are better for our system; they reinforce the integrity of our institutions. Let's make this happen.

Thank you for your attention, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3213.
Best regards,

Dr. Scott Beaver