



## **Testimony in Support of HB 5012**

**Submitted by: Deanna Palm**

**President & CEO, Washington County Chamber of Commerce**

**Date: February 28, 2025**

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety:

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill 5012, which ensures critical funding for the Oregon Judicial Department. A well-functioning judicial system is essential to maintaining a stable and predictable business environment, fostering economic growth, and upholding the rule of law that allows businesses to operate with confidence.

The Business Case for Supporting HB 5012

### **1. Business Stability and Economic Certainty**

- The timely resolution of business disputes, contract enforcement, and commercial litigation is crucial for businesses of all sizes. Delays in the court system can result in financial burdens, increased legal costs, and uncertainty that stifles business operations and investment.
- By ensuring adequate funding for judicial operations, HB 5012 supports a predictable legal framework that businesses rely on to plan, grow, and contribute to Oregon's economy.

### **2. Efficient Court Services Benefit the Business Community**

- The funding allocated in HB 5012 for state court technology systems and operations improvements will enhance efficiency and reduce backlogs that often delay business-related cases.
- Investments in conciliation and mediation services provide an alternative to costly and time-consuming litigation, allowing businesses to resolve disputes more effectively.

### **3. Legal Infrastructure Supports Workforce and Economic Development**

- The bill's commitment to law libraries and the Legal Services Program ensures that businesses, entrepreneurs, and employees have access to essential legal resources, strengthening their ability to navigate regulations, contracts, and employment law matters.
- A strong and well-funded judicial system enhances Oregon's business climate, making the state more attractive for business expansion, entrepreneurship, and investment.

## Conclusion

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce urges the Legislature to pass HB 5012 to maintain a strong, efficient, and accessible judicial system. Reliable legal infrastructure is a fundamental pillar of a thriving economy, and this bill is a necessary investment in ensuring Oregon remains a competitive and business-friendly state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Deanna Palm  
President & CEO