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**INTERSTATE**  
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

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March 6, 2025

Honorable Co-Chair Woods & Gomberg, and the Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation & Economic Development,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation & Economic Development. We wish to express our support for HB 5541 as it relates to ODOT's maintenance budget request.

Interstate Business Solutions is proud to serve the state of Oregon and keep your interstates clean. Interstate Business Solutions is the nation's largest, continuous highway maintenance contractors and we hire exclusively from the communities we serve. At Interstate, we hire individuals with employment challenges who were formerly incarcerated, homeless, veterans, or suffering from substance abuse and help them to change their lives. I am honored to provide this testimony today on behalf of the 89 Oregonians that we have employed over the course of this project.

Interstate Business Solutions supports the expansion of HB 5541 so that we may continue to clean Oregon's roadways and develop that workforces in the communities we serve. Our work is critical to promote clean communities that attract people, businesses, and tourism. Litter creates a culture of environmental apathy. Litter reduces real estate values, increases crime toleration, and is a top 10 cause of motor vehicle accidents. The quicker litter is picked up, the less chance of encouraging more litter accumulating along the roadways.

At Interstate, we are proud to pay our workers a living wage starting at \$18-\$20 per hour, provide them with commuter transportation, offer them mentorship and life skills, including financial literacy and assistance earning their GED or associate's degree. We work with their parole officers, help them to find affordable housing, and we offer paid time off when weather conditions inhibit our litter cleanup work. We promote a high standard of work ethic and promote within the company and assist our workers to find higher paying jobs within the community.

To date, April 2024 through February 2025, we have achieved the following for ODOT & the State of Oregon in the Portland area alone:

- 215,500 pounds (108 tons) of litter removed
- 27,479 trash bags filled
- 2512 miles of roadway cleaned
- 40+ Consistent Full Time Employees

- Over 89 people have been employed since the start of the litter contract
- 95.5% of our workforce are minorities
- 28 formerly incarcerated individuals have stayed out of the justice system to date.
- \$1,232,588 annual savings from 28 people staying out of the justice system
  - It costs the state an average of \$44,021 per person according to the Vera Institute<sup>1</sup>
- \$402,528 annual savings keeping people off Medicaid Payments
  - It costs the state an average of \$14,376 per family of four according to Oregon.gov<sup>2</sup>
- \$236,544 annual savings keeping people off SNAP
  - It costs the state an average of \$8,448 per family of four according to Center on Budget and Policy Priorities<sup>3</sup>
- \$108,892 annual state income/property/sales tax payments
  - Based at an estimated 9.8% of Gross Income (\$3,889 per person) AVG \$19/hr<sup>4</sup>
- \$1,980,552 Total Annual Savings to the State of Oregon in the first year!

Interstate Business Solution's workforce development program through litter abatement and cleanup has become pivotal to the communities we serve. We are keeping our employees contributing members of society while cleaning up their communities and bettering their lives and the lives of their families. Keeping just one person out of prison can change the lives of generations.

In conclusion, Interstate Business Solutions strongly supports the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation & Economic Development's budget request and urge the committee to prioritize the funding needed for the entire Oregon Department of Transportation.

This is an investment that will not only keep your communities clean, but also reduce recidivism and increase prosperity across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Matt Murray

1. Vera Institute of Justice. (2015). *The price of prisons 2015: State spending trends*. Vera Institute of Justice. <https://www.vera.org/publications/price-of-prisons-2015-state-spending-trends/price-of-prisons-2015-state-spending-trends/price-of-prisons-2015-state-spending-trends-prison-spending>
2. Oregon Health Authority. (2020). *Oregon health care cost trends report 2013–2019*. Oregon Health Authority. <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/HP/Cost%20Growth%20Target%20documents/Oregon-Health-Care-Cost-Trends-Report-2013-2019-FINAL.pdf>
3. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2023, May 5). *SNAP in Oregon: A primer*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. [https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap\\_factsheet\\_oregon.pdf](https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_oregon.pdf)
4. Luhby, T. (2020, February 19). *States where Americans are paying the most taxes*. USA Today. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2020/02/19/states-where-americans-are-paying-the-most-taxes/111323648/>