

Southern OREGON UNIVERSITY

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

TESTIMONY OFFERED IN SUPPORT OF SB 1022

Offered by Marc Overbeck, Director of Government Relations

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the Joint Committee, I am pleased to offer this statement on behalf of Southern Oregon University in support of SB 1022, which modifies the Special License Plate Program.

As you may know, while Oregon has seven public universities, four of these—the Technical and Regional Universities or TRUs, which are holding a joint Lobby Day today at the Capitol, are structurally distinct from the other larger institutions.

Our institutions serve between about 3,000 and 5,200 students each—as compared with tens of thousands at the larger public universities. We also possess much smaller staffing levels than the larger institutions, and that includes our alumni relations departments, which would be responsible for any campaign around a university-specific license plate.

By lowering the number of plates required under the Special License Plate Program, SB 1022 offers the TRU universities the opportunity to help support pride in our institutions from students and alumni—in a manner that is feasible for the size of our schools.

We greatly appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.