

Submitter: James Shannon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB947

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 947 A. While I recognize the intentions behind this legislation, I believe it introduces significant concerns that outweigh its potential benefits.

First, SB 947 A imposes unnecessary regulatory burdens that would hinder individual freedoms and create bureaucratic inefficiencies. Oregon already has a complex framework of statutes addressing the issues this bill seeks to regulate; layering additional restrictions risks confusing compliance requirements and creating legal uncertainty for both individuals and businesses.

Second, the bill could have unintended economic consequences. It introduces new costs — whether through direct compliance, administrative fees, or legal risk — that would ultimately be passed onto consumers, taxpayers, or small business owners. At a time when many Oregonians are struggling with affordability and economic instability, the state should prioritize policies that encourage innovation, investment, and local empowerment, not ones that add financial and regulatory barriers.

Third, SB 947 A does not adequately account for regional and community-specific differences across Oregon. A one-size-fits-all approach may be appropriate for urban centers but can be profoundly damaging in rural and frontier regions, where resources, infrastructure, and community needs are substantially different. Rather than imposing top-down mandates, lawmakers should focus on flexible, locally-driven solutions.

Finally, the transparency and public input process for SB 947 A has been insufficient. Legislation with such far-reaching implications deserves more robust stakeholder engagement, including more opportunities for citizens, professionals, and community organizations to provide feedback and propose amendments.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Legislature to reject SB 947 A or at minimum to significantly revise it to address these critical flaws. Oregon deserves legislation that empowers rather than restricts, that builds consensus rather than division, and that prioritizes effectiveness over mere appearance of action.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,
James Shannon
Bend, Oregon