

Submitter: Chris Greco

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

While I understand and support the need for government to respond to emerging challenges, SB 243 represents an overreach that threatens to undermine core values Oregonians hold dear—transparency, fairness, and individual rights.

First and foremost, the language of SB 243 grants expansive authority to agencies without sufficient checks and balances. Broad discretion with minimal oversight creates fertile ground for abuse, unintended consequences, and the erosion of public trust in our institutions. Oregonians expect accountability, not ambiguity.

Moreover, SB 243 appears to sidestep meaningful public input in decisions that directly impact communities. This is deeply concerning. Good policy is not crafted behind closed doors; it is built through inclusive dialogue, transparency, and the voices of the people most affected. By bypassing public process, this bill risks silencing the very citizens it purports to serve.

There are also significant implications for civil liberties. Whether it involves data collection, enforcement mechanisms, or procedural limitations, any proposal that could encroach on constitutional protections must be scrutinized with utmost care. SB 243 fails that test. Vague language around implementation and enforcement leaves open the possibility for discriminatory practices or undue burdens on already vulnerable populations.

Lastly, I urge this committee to consider the long-term precedent this bill sets. Laws passed today become the tools of tomorrow. We must ask: Would we be comfortable with this level of authority in the hands of a future administration we disagree with? If the answer is no, then the bill demands a second look.

In closing, SB 243 may have been introduced with good intentions, but as written, it compromises transparency, undermines public trust, and threatens the rights of Oregonians. I urge this committee to reject the bill and instead pursue more balanced, participatory approaches to governance. I vote no, please reject this measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.