



Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs, Members of the Committee,

Appraiser Certification &
Licensure Board

Oregon Film and Video
Office

Oregon Board of
Optometry

Oregon Board of Physical
Therapy

Oregon Landscape
Contractors Board

Oregon Patient Safety
Commission

Oregon State Board of
Architect Examiners

Oregon State Board of
Examiners for
Engineering & Land
Surveying

Oregon State Board of
Geologist Examiners

Oregon State Board of
Massage Therapists

Oregon State Landscape
Architect Board

Oregon Travel
Information Council

Oregon Tourism
Commission (dba Travel
Oregon)

Oregon Wine Board

We represent 14 unique semi-independent Oregon state agencies. We serve as licensing boards for healthcare providers and other Oregon professionals, economic development agencies for Oregon's wine and film industry and tourism destinations, operators of the state's rest areas, and advocates for patient safety. While the history and rationale for our status as semi-independent state agencies varies, we are united in our service to the state of Oregon. In the spirit of that shared commitment, we are writing to you today.

We appreciate Representative Gomberg's interest in our work for Oregon and his consistent affirmation that HB 4095 was not developed in response to any mismanagement of our agencies. As small agencies with limited staff and budgets, we also appreciate the Representative's recognition of the unintended complications our agencies would have faced had HB 4095 passed in its current form.

These challenges include a foundational difference in the state budget development timeline and the budget timeline for our agencies, which with very few exceptions do not receive General or Lottery Funds and are reliant on actual revenues being collected. In addition, if there were a change to how our agencies budget, our short-term costs would increase due to the additional staff capacity requirements we would need to transition and could remain higher than the status quo to maintain this budgeting process. Any additional costs would be directly passed on to those paying the user or license fees for many of our agencies. Semi-independent agencies utilize our current financial flexibility and related tools to keep fees and costs low, as well as nimbly respond to the often fast-changing market dynamics impacting the industries and communities we serve. In many cases, the budgeting change could also delay the time in which programs and funds are distributed to communities to support our missions.

We understand why the unique structure of our budgeting, reporting, and related operations may induce questions. Our current accountability, reporting and financial requirements include public budget processes involving notice, public hearings and review of public comments, overseen and approved by our Governor-appointed and in some cases, Senate-confirmed, Boards, Councils, and Commissions; annual financial statements submitted to the Department of Administrative Services; biennial financial reports filed with the Legislative Fiscal Office, Legislative Leadership, and the Governor and presented as legislative testimony; detailed financial statements published on our websites and/or in our public meeting materials; and third-party financial reviews or audits conducted by qualified accountants or the Secretary of State.

As stewards of public dollars, we take seriously our commitment to share information with and answer questions from the Legislature, and we look forward to being partners as Representative Gomberg continues to explore possible ways

to increase budget related transparency. Please know that we are also available to any committee member with questions.

We believe we share the same goals of ensuring transparent, accountable service to the state of Oregon. We hope to work with Representative Gomberg and others in the Legislature to fulfill this goal while also advancing our core missions to support the professional, economic, and health needs of communities statewide.

Sincerely,

Appraiser Certification and Licensure Board
State Board of Architect Examiners
State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying
State Board of Geologist Examiners
State Landscape Architect Board
Oregon Board of Optometry
State Board of Massage Therapists
Oregon Board of Physical Therapy
State Landscape Contractors Board
Oregon Patient Safety Commission
Oregon Wine Board
Oregon Tourism Commission
Travel Information Council
Oregon Film and Video Office