

February 12, 2026

Chair Sosa, Vice-Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned associations whose members work closely with and are regulated by Oregon's semi-independent state agencies, we write to share our concerns with proposals that would significantly change the current budget and financial management framework for those agencies.

Our organizations represent licensees, businesses, and professionals across multiple sectors of Oregon's economy. Our members pay the fees, comply with the rules, and interact directly with these agencies on licensing, compliance, education, and enforcement matters, as well as economic development and promotion of our industries. As a result, any structural change to how these agencies budget and manage their finances has a direct impact on the communities and industries we represent.

The existing semi-independent model has provided predictability, cost control, and responsiveness. Because these agencies are primarily funded through dedicated fees rather than General Fund dollars, their budgets are closely tied to actual program needs and real revenue. This structure helps ensure that licensee and user fees are used for their intended regulatory and programmatic purposes.

We are concerned that shifting these agencies into a more centralized budget process could increase administrative costs without improving services. For fee-funded agencies, those added costs ultimately fall on licensees and regulated communities through higher fees or reduced services.

We are also concerned about delays and reduced flexibility. A budget model built around forecasts and statewide timelines may not align well with agencies that depend on real-time fee collections. Reduced flexibility could slow licensing, delay enforcement actions, or limit promotion for our industries.

Our organizations value transparency and accountability in the use of public and fee-payer dollars. We support clear reporting, strong oversight, and responsible financial management. At the same time, we believe reforms should be carefully evaluated to ensure they do not unintentionally raise costs for regulated communities or weaken programs.

We respectfully ask the Legislature to work closely with stakeholders, licensees, and regulated industries before making significant changes to this framework. Our fees and fines sustain these boards so we feel input from our industries should be considered into how they are changed. A deliberate approach will help preserve what is working while identifying targeted improvements where they are truly needed.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued focus on accountable governance. We look forward to being a constructive partner in these discussions.

Sincerely,



**Oregon
Winegrowers**
ASSOCIATION EST 1981



**OREGON OPTOMETRIC
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION**

