



Testimony to the House House Committee On Judiciary

Re: HB 4138

February 04, 2026

**Crystal Weston, Environmental Health Director
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Re: Oregon Environmental Council support for HB 4138

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallen and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC), a non-partisan, environmental nonprofit that works at the nexus of human health and the environment, I write to express OEC's strong support for HB 4138.

Masked law enforcement agents, often with no identification, make it difficult for the public to know who is in our neighborhoods, what they are doing, and whether their actions are lawful. It is difficult for the public to know if masked operatives are actual government agents or impersonators. This lack of transparency undermines Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures by preventing individuals from understanding, questioning, or asserting their constitutional rights during encounters with law enforcement. These actions that infringe on rights and terrorize communities are wrong on their own merits when federal agents fail to follow Constitutional rights and have poor training and inhumane policies.

These actions also undermine social capital and community cohesion, which interferes with civil society's ability to build community, solve problems, and function normally. For example, there have been reports of federal agents masquerading as utility workers, which means that ordinary utility workers out upgrading meters and earning a living can't do their jobs. If there is a disaster or a crime takes place, people distrust first responders.

HB 4138 strengthens public trust by ensuring that all law enforcement actions in Oregon are transparent, visible, and accountable. LEAVA will require ALL law enforcement officers operating in Oregon to visibly identify themselves, who they work for, and to unmask. It will also build a firewall between state and local public employees and the federal government to protect our civil rights and liberties, including our due process rights.

HB 4138 will protect the foundation of our society so that communities can trust that people are who they say they are and Oregonians can come together to solve problems. Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Crystal Weston
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