

Submitter: Ben Hilsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1510

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Hilsen, and I am a federally licensed Enrolled Agent. I am writing to respectfully urge your support for SB 1510A (SB 1510 as amended by the Senate).

Enrolled Agents are licensed and regulated by the Internal Revenue Service under Circular 230 and are authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS in all tax matters. We are subject to federal testing, background checks, continuing education requirements, and professional discipline at the federal level.

Oregon is currently the only state in the country that requires federally licensed Enrolled Agents to pass an additional state exam. These duplicative requirements do not meaningfully enhance consumer protection, but they do reduce access to a nationwide network of qualified tax representation, particularly for rural and underserved taxpayers.

SB 1510A strikes a reasonable balance. It allows Enrolled Agents to rely on an existing federal credential, maintains Oregon Board of Tax Practitioners oversight and consumer protections, and has no fiscal impact on the state.

In my practice, clients often need timely help with tax notices, compliance issues, payment arrangements, and representation. Duplicative state-level barriers make it harder, not easier, for taxpayers to access competent assistance, and they discourage qualified professionals from serving Oregon residents.

SB 1510A is a measured solution that protects consumers, improves access to services, and removes unnecessary regulatory duplication. I respectfully ask for your support.

Thank you for your time and your service.