



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

May 17, 2017

To: [Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability](#)
[Senator Chuck Riley](#)

Re: [HB 3274 A](#) – Office of Small Business Assistance disclosure exemptions - **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports transparency and efficiency in government processes. We have submitted supportive testimony this session for public records bills for policy (SB 481), formation of an Advocate/Ombudsman position and Council (SB 106), and public records request disclosure exemption management (HB 2101). We recognize this bill as application of a technical fix.

The focus of this bill is to protect communications between small businesses, as Office of Small Business Assistance (OSBA) clients, and the OSBA. Pertinent statute as written, ORS 56.203(4), was found inadequate by the Oregon Department of Justice in November 2016. Application of this correction as amended will maintain and protect the originally intended function of the service, to provide small business help, allowing free discourse without fear of public airing of private communications describing complaints or confidential case work. Small businesses would be assigned case numbers and relevant communications would be protected. We understand that this should not be interpreted as a haven for application of confidentiality to unrelated communications or documents sent to the OSBA.

Currently, communications sent by the OSBA are appended with a warning:

Disclaimer: This email communication is subject to ORS 56.203(4) regarding confidentiality.

This bill would provide necessary economic privacy for our small businesses seeking state assistance. We urge Senate Rules to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.


Norman Turrill
LWVOR President


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LWVOR Governance Coordinator