

February 4, 2019

Co-Chair Rob Wagner
Co-Chair Greg Smith
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on General Government
900 Court St NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301



RE: Support for Oregon Buys

Dear Co-Chair Wagner and Co-Chair Smith,

As you know, the Oregon business community has long partnered with state leaders on building more efficiency and cost management into government processes. Over the last four years, we have spoken regularly with Governor Brown about the state's procurement processes and offered assistance to her department leaders in their efforts to reduce costs through better managed processes. The importance of these efforts, and Governor Brown's focus on them, is underscored by the recent Secretary of State's audit suggesting substantial savings could be accrued from better procurement practices.

We appreciate the Governor's efforts to improve the state's procurement processes, including in the area of IT, which we know is challenging for many entities, public and private. For this reason, our associations support the state's eProcurement initiative, *OregonBuys*, an on-line procurement tool that would seek the lowest-cost bids on behalf of all agencies. Vendors would be able to submit bids online any time of day, instead of hand delivering or mailing paper bids, which would streamline the process and potentially encourage more potential vendors to participate.

We are committed to helping Governor Brown as she works to improve procurement practices. We have identified experts in IT and procurement from our member companies to advise her and her team as she moves forward on this important work, including the implementation of *OregonBuys*.

We encourage you to support this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Wyse".

Duncan Wyse
President
Oregon Business Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra McDonough".

Sandra McDonough
President & CEO
Oregon Business & Industry