

JEFF HELFRICH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 52



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 2, 2023

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 2005-B

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Today, I voted against House Bill 2005-B. While I am a gun owner myself and a strong supporter of our 2nd Amendment rights, those are not the reasons why I voted against the bill. I voted against the bill because I worry about the time and money that will be spent defending this unconstitutional policy in the courts.

It is no secret that this bill will be challenged in the courts. I received countless emails from Oregonians in my district and around the state telling me the lawsuits are already being drafted.

I voted "no" today because our state cannot afford to defend this bill.


In November 2022, the voters of this state passed Measure 114. There was immediately a lawsuit and implementation of the measure has been paused as the courts deliberate.

On February 17th, the Department of Justice told me they had been billed \$223,409.13 to date for the work on Measure 114 litigation. Nearly a quarter million dollars. And that was two and a half months ago! What does that number look like now? How much additional money will the state spend defending House Bill 2005-B in court?

Our state is facing lower revenue and a tightened budget. Projects around the state are getting delayed or cancelled because the state does not have the funds for completion. So, why are we moving forward with a bill that will cost our state precious resources to defend in court?

Oregon cannot afford House Bill 2005-B. That is why I voted "no."

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Helfrich
State Representative, House District 52