



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 22, 2022

Chief Clerk Sekerak
Oregon State Capitol

RE: Vote explanation for HB 4114

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my vote on HB 4114.

HB 4114 Requires School Board members to file an annual verified statement of economic interest (SEI).

The Secretary of State Audits Division recommended adding school board members to the list of public officials required to submit a SEI. The audit noted that since school board members manage a critical public function and allocate billions of dollars in revenue as part-time public officials with other employment and community connections, "it is important to provide the public with adequate information about these potential conflicts to maintain accountability and fairness".

This bill is intending to add to the transparency of public officials already required to submit an annual SEI. In principle, this is a good idea. However, I voted no because of the justification for the need for the transparency. The staff measure summary states that, "school board members allocate billions of dollars in revenue". This statement is only partially true. School board members, in partnership with their budget committees, annually establish the district budget. Budget committee members will not be required to submit an annual SEI. This bill also does not cover committees that a district may form such as a bond oversight committee for a capital construction project. This committee may be in charge of millions of dollars in a calendar year, but the committee members would not be subject to an SEI filing.

While I support transparency of publicly elected officials, I could not support this bill.

Regards,

Anna