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Jim Green

May 1, 2023

Dear school board members:

RE: Statement of Economic Interest requirements for school board members legislation.

I know many of you are extremely concerned with the potential impacts of the new requirement this year to file elections paperwork. For reference, beginning this year, school board members are now required to make an annual “Statement of Economic Interest” (SEI) ethics filing. In 2022, OSBA opposed the bill which created this mandate, [HB 4114](#). Despite our opposition, the bill is now law.

In response to this mandate and the strong outcry from many school board members across Oregon, OSBA has been working with Representative Mark Owens, a school board member in Crane, and Senator Lynn Findley to draft legislation that will change the requirement. In its current form, [SB 292](#) would remove the requirement to file SEIs for school board members in districts that are below 4000 ADM until 2026.

We have been working with legislative leadership to move the bill forward and have made good progress. The bill has passed the Senate with a unanimous vote of support and is now in the House Rules Committee, awaiting scheduling. We continue to advocate for the passage of the bill.

I want to again restate that we hear the concerns expressed by many school district board members about this mandate. We know some boards have had multiple members resign from their school board service in protest of this requirement.

The agency responsible for overseeing the SEI process is the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC). It was brought to our attention by the OGEC that any school board member who was in active school board service on April 15 is required to file an SEI. This includes any school board members who resigned on or after April 15.

SB 292 would address this problem. A distinct section of the bill includes a “hold-harmless” provision that would remove this requirement. With that acknowledged, SB 292 is not yet law.

Please know that we continue to work on this issue. We are having discussions with the OGEC regarding this requirement. As we understand it, the law says “the commission may” impose a penalty. We do not believe that any further penalty is appropriate following resignation from school board service.

Thank you for your service. Please feel free to reach out to me directly and know that we are working very hard on your behalf to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Green', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Green
Executive Director

