

from the

OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

For Immediate Release

Date: May 7, 2021

Contact: Andrew Fromm

Email: andrew.fromm@oregonlegislature.gov

Statement of support for 'Good governance' bills proposed to address Oregon Government Ethics Commission audit recommendations

SALEM, Ore. – House Republican Leader Christine Drazan (R-Canby) released the following statement of support ahead of today's House Rules Committee hearing on four bills related to government ethics.

"Public corruption is the enemy of good governance. Our watchdog against corruption on behalf of the people of our state is the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

The recently released audit of the Ethics Commission by the Secretary of State highlighted areas for improvement and I am pleased to see that the Ethics Commission has embraced these recommendations with the legislation before the House Rules Committee today.

But these reforms are just the beginning of what is needed to ensure Oregon's public servants are operating under the highest standards with adequate enforcement. We must ensure our ethics commission has the experience and resources to uncover and investigate ethics violations while remaining independent, transparent and accessible.

This is an important opportunity to adopt the recommendations from this in-depth audit to strengthen enforcement and accountability to foster public trust in Oregon's government and elected leaders."

SB <u>60</u>, <u>61</u>, <u>62</u> and <u>63</u> will be heard by the <u>House Committee on Rules</u> today. These Senate bills seek to address shortcomings in Oregon's ethics laws, based on a <u>recent audit</u> from the Secretary of State's office that compared Oregon's government ethics rules with other states.