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Contact: See list at end of release

Oregon's Leading Business Organizations Take Positions on State Ballot Measures

Portland, Ore. – Today, the state's leading business organizations representing more than 4,500 employers from across the state announced their joint positions on four measures appearing on November's ballot. The organizations are taking the unusual step of issuing joint public positions because of the negative impact the measures 59 and 61 would have on the competitiveness of Oregon companies. The groups also weighed in on Measure 65. An overview of the organizations' positions is below.

Measure 59: Oppose ***Federal Tax Deduction***

Because the majority of Oregon's General Fund goes to education, health care and public safety, the cuts required by Measure 59 will deeply hurt basic services, including those critical to our economy. This approach also abandons the long held policy that those public services benefiting all Oregonians be funded through a broad based tax system. The measure increases pressure to raise taxes and fees on employers, reducing Oregon's competitiveness and our ability to maintain and create jobs in an increasingly international marketplace.

Measure 57: Support Measure 61: Oppose ***Increased Sentencing***

The cost of increasing drug and theft sentences under Measure 61 (\$161-274 million per year and \$1.3 billion borrowed for prison construction) will jeopardize school funding and other critical services. Measure 57 is a more effective approach, requiring addiction treatment, a more affordable and effective tool for decreasing drug and property crimes.

Measure 65: Support ***Open Primary***

Creating an open primary will allow citizens, to vote for their preferred state candidate, regardless of party. This will encourage candidates to appeal to a broad voter base, producing a more balanced approach when focusing on solutions to the state's most pressing issues.

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The business organizations involved in this announcement are below. For individual comments from each of the organizations, please contact:

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