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Good morning co-chairs Komp, Monroe and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Eric Noll and I'm a student transferring to Portland State University this fall from Linn-Benton Community College. I look forward to moving into co-chair Monroe's district later in June. I'm here this morning to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 270A on the principle of accountability.

As a community college student for the past three years I have seen a local board function effectively and work toward the best interests of my College. As a member of the LBCC student government I got to know each of our board members on a first-name basis and at the end of the day they were each members of the local community, just like me. By observing the actions and interactions of the board over the last two years I could tell that the board members were deeply concerned with the well-being of the community and representing the constituents that elected them. And I'm going to miss the LBCC Board of Education when I move on to PSU.

But I'm afraid that I'll be moving from an institution with a locally elected board to one that is appointed at a statewide level. I'm concerned with the fact that the members of the board prescribed in SB 270A are not going to be elected, but appointed. And not even appointed by the local community. It concerns me further, that because these board members will be appointed, they will not have a constituency, but rather a special interest disengaged from the community.

The mission statement of PSU reads: "Let Knowledge Serve the City." I am concerned that an institutional board will put that mission as secondary to individual and special interests. A constituency of a community college board of education has the ability to hold the board of education accountable to the College's mission. If the community cannot do so then who will hold these institutional boards accountable to the mission and accountable to the community?

In addition to accountability, I share concerns about transparency, accessibility, and affordability with the other students who have testified in opposition to SB 270A.

Thank you for your time and have a great day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Eric Noll'.

Eric Noll
PSU Transfer Student from LBCC