December 19, 2016

Dave Lebryk
Fiscal Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Sheryl Morrow
Commissioner, Bureau of the Fiscal Service
U.S. Department of the Treasury
401 14th Street NW, Suite 545
Washington, DC 20227

Dear Assistant Secretary Lebryk and Commissioner Morrow:

When it begins in July 2017, the Oregon Retirement Savings Plan will be the nation’s first operating state-sponsored auto-IRA plan -- and will eventually offer as many as 1 million Oregon workers the opportunity to save via payroll deductions, something they are not able to do now.

In Oregon, we are eagerly looking forward to the launch: It will be a watershed moment for helping to begin to cope with a massive, multibillion-dollar and ever-growing savings gap, a gap that already threatens our economic vibrancy, strains our budget-stressed safety net programs and jeopardizes the quality of life for Oregon families from border to border. To prepare, we are focused on ensuring the plan is both simple and well-designed to meet the long-term best interests of savers.

As part of that goal, the Oregon Retirement Savings Board would like to make available a capital-preservation option for savers who wish to limit their risk exposure. Based on conversations with U.S. Treasury Department staff and a presentation by U.S. Treasury to the Board at its meeting on December 6, 2016, the Board has resolved to express its strong interest in incorporating the Treasury Retirement Savings Bond in the Oregon plan; this letter is the physical expression of the resolution passed by the Board.

We are requesting that you confirm as soon as possible that the Bond can be included as an option. The U.S. Treasury Bond is envisioned as serving those Oregon plan participants that explicitly select it. The Board has signaled that it expects to use diversified target date funds as the default choice.

We believe this option would offer a substantial value for a significant number of Oregon savers. It would be beneficial for savers to have this readily accessible conservative, complementary investment option that benefits them and allows them to develop investing confidence.
We are excited about the possibility of including the Treasury Retirement Savings Bond as a component in the Oregon Retirement Savings Plan, and stand ready to support you in bringing this to fruition.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Ted Wheeler
Oregon State Treasurer
Chair, Oregon Retirement Savings Board

cc: Mark Iwry, U.S. Department of Treasury
    Richard Ludlow, U.S. Department of Treasury