

John Bial
9169 SW Hill Street
Portland, OR 97223

Mr. Keeling,

As the CEO of an Oregon raised biotechnology company, I support the acquisition of Agate Resources by Centene.

Healthcare is complex and requires ongoing innovation. Whether the goal is curing disease, maintaining health, treating addiction, supporting people through social crises, or treating mental health problems, it is irresponsible to rely on past accomplishments. Oregonians who are being served by OHP often have the most complex needs and we are not yet doing a good enough job of addressing these. To that end, I am glad that we are considering bringing a national company - with their expertise and experience – to Oregon. They will bring fresh perspectives and ideas to our state and the opportunity to learn from experiences around the nation.

While there are concerns over a “for profit” company administering the Oregon Health Plan, I have noticed that in health care – whether it is insurance companies, CCO’s, or hospitals – the amount of money that a company makes or pays its executives is often greater in “not for profit” than in “for profit” companies. I don’t, however, believe that these are the most important metrics by which to judge an Oregon Health Care provider. Rather, these organizations should be judged by how much they cost the state (“for profit” and “not for profit” companies are paid the same and so cost the public the same) and on how well they perform in serving the public. Reassuringly, Centene has a long record of service in many states and they should be judged on these merits. Additionally, an important advantage of partnering with a “for profit” over a “not for profit” company is that “for profit” companies pay taxes on any money they make – limiting their profit and ensuring that they contribute financially to our system.

I hope that the Oregon Insurance Division will be supportive of this transaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bial', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Bial
President & CEO, Yecuris Corporation