

Jeremy (if going from Portland to Salem)-503-995-5489

Kevin (Leaving from Eugene. Meetup Thursday 7:30am at duck store) 503-927-8189

Dear Governor Kitzhaber and Special Joint Interim Committee on Economic Development,

My Name is Jeremy Hedlund, and I am a member of the Student Labor Action Project at the University of Oregon. We would like to express our concerns on the proposal that would allow the governor to grant special tax status to specific companies.

We recognize that Nike is one of Oregon's largest employers, and we are excited at the announcement of an investment being made in Oregon. We think this is an opportunity to build the middle class, and to build an Oregon for the future, to make it thrive. We want a solution that encourages job creation here in Oregon.

I am a student who has been heavily affected by Nike's large presence on the UO campus and want them to be held accountable to the state and to contribute to Oregon's economy in the most positive way. Many Oregon graduates are unemployed or underemployed. They cannot find a job with a living wage after they graduate and it is hurting the people of this state.

We, as students, feel that there are options to ensure that companies that take advantage of this proposal will continue to contribute to the state in the best way and would like to present those opportunities to you. We want the beneficiaries of these exemptions to hire Oregonians. We want hiring priorities for graduates of Oregon's higher education system and for there to be enforceable quotas set. We suggest that companies increase it's new hire rate for graduates of institutions of higher education based in Oregon, keeping money in Oregon as we build the state's economy.

We are asking you, as state representatives and senators who represent students, to ensure that this private investment benefits Oregonians and students first -- particularly our youth, who have an alarmingly high unemployment rate, the 7th highest in the country. We want this proposal to benefit everyone in the state, not just corporate investors.

We realize this piece of legislation is moving very quickly, but we want to make sure it is the best option for the state in the long run and for the students who want to contribute in rebuilding Oregon's economy. This rebuilding requires that Nike and others have fair labor practices. For us, this means providing care for workers, fair union elections, and equal pay for all employees.

Thank you so much for your consideration of our testimony. We hope that you seriously consider these additions to a bill that would not only affect Nike in Oregon but other large companies seeking to invest. We want this proposal to be the fairest and most beneficial for the state, and all the people that reside here.

Thank you,
University of Oregon Student Labor Action Project