

FROM THE DESK OF

Jeff Barker



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Dear Representative -

Please vote yes on HB 3342, the Public Dollar Accountability Act.

HB 3342 protects taxpayers' dollars from being used by public employers to advocate for their own personal opinions about labor unions. Currently, public employers in Oregon can spend unlimited amounts of money advocating for or fighting against employees if they consider forming a union. This is a waste of scarce public resources, and an improper use of work time.

One large public sector Oregon employer recently spent public dollars on two law firms and a consultant specifically for the purpose of advising them on how to discourage workers from forming a union. A few years ago a smaller publically-funded employer's manager spent so much fighting workers who were considering forming a union that she ran the program she managed into the ground – it had to be taken over by a similar regional program and clients were left with fewer services available because of funding shortfalls.

Public resources should be available for education, public safety, and investments in our infrastructure. Wasting these resources on either fighting or supporting a union is inappropriate – and it's time to ensure it doesn't happen any longer.

That's why workers across Oregon support HB 3342, the Public Dollar Accountability Act, and it's why the bill had no testimony in opposition in committee.

Thank you for your support.

Tom Chamberlain
President, Oregon AFL-CIO