

Rep Holvey

From: WEBSTER Alison G * OED <Alison.G.WEBSTER@oregon.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 11:45 AM
To: Rep Holvey
Cc: DEMAREST Steven W * OED
Subject: Union Response to OAH Oversight Committee regarding OAH move to DAS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Representative Holvey and Oversight Committee Members:

Thank you for requesting input from SEIU 503 and AFSCME regarding the proposal to move the Office of Administrative Hearings from the Employment Department to the Department of Administrative Services. We are sending this response via email so that it is received by the July 31, 2014 date set out in your letter of June 6, 2014.

SEIU 503 and AFSCME Counsel 75, Local 3581, and the OAH workers they represent, favor an independent central hearings panel and, therefore, favor any legislation that would enhance the independence of the OAH. That would include moving the OAH from the oversight of its largest customer to an agency that is not a regular customer, as long as the OAH maintains its independence following the move. We hope that the legislation enacted to carry out the move between agencies is thoughtfully constructed to ensure the independence, and the perception of independence, that is necessary for good government and for good service to Oregon citizens.

There is another issue we wish to address, one that the Committee discussed at its April 30, 2014 meeting. OAH workers represented by the unions believe that it is in the best interest of the OAH to have high performance and stability in the Chief ALJ position. And, in furtherance of these goals, we hope that the OAH's move to a different agency provides the opportunity to review the compensation of the Chief ALJ, so that it is commensurate with other like positions.

Thank you,

Steven Demarest
OAH Section Officer
SEIU 503 Employment Department Local 471

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