



LAWYERS FOR ORGANIZED LABOR IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Oregon Office

3021 N.E. BROADWAY  
PORTLAND, OR 97232  
TELEPHONE: 866.697.6015  
FACSIMILE: 503.210.9847

Alaska Office

500 W. INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT RD.  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99518  
TELEPHONE: 866.697.6015  
FACSIMILE: 503.210.9847

MICHAEL J. TEDESCO\*  
miketlaw@miketlaw.com

SARAH K. DRESCHER\*  
sarah@miketlaw.com

ANIL S. KARIA\*\*\*  
anil@miketlaw.com

KATELYN S. OLDHAM\*\*  
katelyn@miketlaw.com

HALEY ROSENTHAL\*  
haley@miketlaw.com

\* Admitted in OR  
\*\* Admitted in OR, WA  
\*\*\* Admitted in OR, WA, AK

**Testimony before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on General Government  
In support of SB 5509  
April 2, 2015**

Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward and Smith, members of the committee:

My name is Sarah Drescher and I am a partner with Tedesco Law Group, a labor law firm that represents labor unions across Oregon. Our clients include, among others, the Oregon School Employees Association, the Oregon State Firefighters Council and most Oregon firefighter unions, several Oregon police unions, the Association of Engineering Employees of Oregon, and the City of Portland Professional Employees Association.

The attorneys in our law firm practice regularly before the Oregon Employment Relations Board, handling unfair labor practices, filing union representation petitions, and using the Board's mediation services to resolve labor disputes.

The Employment Relations Board is one of the true success stories among Oregon administrative agencies. Under the leadership of Chair Logan, the Board has eliminated its backlog of cases and now consistently processes cases and issues decisions in a timely manner. This is a significant and noticeable improvement in just two years. Attorneys for employers and unions alike will attest that the Board's improved efficiency has led to speedier resolution of labor disputes. And

quick resolution of labor disputes is not only good for the immediate parties involved, but it is good for the communities in which these labor disputes arise; it is good for Oregon tax payers; and it is just good policy. Maintaining the efficiency that this Board has worked so hard to achieve is essential to labor peace in Oregon.

One thing that would continue to increase efficiency for the Board and for those of us who use the Board's services is the creation of an electronic case management system with the ability to file and serve documents electronically. Currently, the Oregon Appellate courts and many circuit courts use e-filing to reduce the time and expense of paper filings. Senate Bill 5509 would, among other things, provide the Board with funding necessary to move to an electronic case management system to establish electronic filing. This is an essential step to maximize efficiency and reduce unnecessary costs – both for the Board and for public employers and unions who file voluminous paperwork with the Board.

Union and management lawyers don't always agree on much. We practice in an area of law that at times can be divisive and contentious. But lawyers on both sides will agree that a strong, well-funded and efficient Employment Relations Board is absolutely necessary to provide labor peace in Oregon's communities.

I encourage you to pass SB 5509.

Thank you.

***Sarah K. Drescher***

Sarah K. Drescher