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March 27, 2015

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
General Government
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5509

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

I represent both public and private sector employers in matters of labor relations. I have served on ERB's Rule Advisory Committee for several years and in 2011-12, I served as co-chair of ERB's Opinion Evaluation Committee to assist the agency in complying with the footnote in the 2011 funding bill. In addition, I represent the Oregon Public Employers Labor Relations Association ("ORPELRA"). ORPELRA consists of public sector management representatives who are responsible for carrying out the labor relations programs within their respective jurisdictions. Its member include municipal, county, and state governments; school districts and university systems; special purpose districts; and lawyers and consultants serving management exclusively. ORPELRA's members come from unionized jurisdictions of all sizes. ORPELRA's mission is to improve labor relations in the public sector through advice, counsel and advocacy. In pursuit of this mission, ORPELRA works with state legislature, members of governing bodies and public administrators. I represent ORPELRA in its advocacy matters.

On behalf of ORPELRA, I write in support of SB 5509. Specifically, the proposed Case Management System upgrade will bring the agency into the current technological age, allowing practitioners and advocates to file paperwork with the agency electronically. This will replace the current system of filing papers either through the mail or via fax. The current system of submitting paperwork does not keep with an active busy practice and, frankly, is unreliable. The state and federal court systems have gone electronic in their filing procedure, as has the National Labor Relations Board. As a practitioner before ERB, the electronic filing system will greatly improve the service that ERB provides the labor relations community.

Finally, the second component of the bill involves an upgrade of the current office administrator position. The budgetary duties assigned to that position simply do not match her classification. Accordingly, this change simply conforms to the present duties.

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I intend to provide oral testimony in addition to this letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TAL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd A. Lyon
For FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP

TAL:sd

cc: ORPELRA Board
Kathryn Logan, ERB Chair