

Dear Victoria Cox,

Please confirm receipt of this missive. I hope it is helpful in passing HB3049.

To The House Higher Education; Innovation and Workforce Development Committee. Chair Read, Vice Chairs Gallegos and Whisnant and committee members.

My name is Gloria O'Brien. I am Biological Research Technician III and a member of SEIU 503, sub-local 083. I work for Oregon State University, at the College of Agricultural Sciences Research Experimental Station Greenhouses at the Corvallis campus as the Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for our facility.

When I started we had four full time people working here, two professional staff and two classified staff. One of the professional staff was the Department head; the other was my direct supervisor. The classified staff consisted of an office coordinator and my BSRT III position. We do also have a crew of student workers, but we all gave them directions.

My direct supervisor left to work out off state last year. He had worked at OSU for about sixteen years and his knowledge base was irreplaceable. So we decided to not replace him. Instead we hired another BSRT III. This saves our department about twenty thousand dollars a year. We used it to better serve our researchers by replacing our out dated thermostats with sophisticated environmental controls for the greenhouses.

All the work still gets done and we have more money to use for improvements to the greenhouses. The attitude of the department has benefited as well. We are a team rather than having a climate of us vs. them.

Reducing the number of supervisors in relation to staff will have a positive effect on the budget of our higher education system. This bill will also help the Universities to prioritize how they allocate their funding and focus on their mission, serving the higher education needs of our students and our researchers.

Thank You,
Gloria O'Brien