



Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU

May 8, 2015

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee – Sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

As the officers of Service Employees International Union – Local 503 - sub-local 415 – and many Oregon Youth Authority represented staff – we are writing to urge you to support the Oregon Youth Authority’s budget contained in SB 5542 currently assigned to the public safety subcommittee, and to fully fund the \$47.9 million for phase one of OYA’s 10-year strategic plan in HB 5005 and HB 5006.

SEIU Local 503 represents approximately 800 Oregon Youth Authority workers at the various campuses statewide. Our members are life counselors; care coordinators; support staff; analytic staff and folks that maintain the physical plant facilities. We are very proud of the work we do with Oregon Youth in a program of justice, reformation; personal growth and development.

We encourage you to restore positions eliminated from OYA last session and enable the agency to open the Young Women’s Transition Program on the campus of the Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility. The full implementation of the agency’s Youth Reformation System is critical to ensure the right youth receive the right services for right length of time. This data driven approach is supported by youth advocates, public safety professionals and OYA’s key stakeholders.

Fully funding OYA and restoring the 13 positions, and the associated \$2.2 million, eliminated in the 2013 end of session “holdback” will also enable OYA’s Positive Human Development Initiative to continue. This initiative which encourages the focus on youth as resources, rather than victims or villains, is the key to continuing the agency’s transformation.

The \$47.9 million recommended for the first phase of the OYA 10-year Strategic Plan will go a long way toward bringing OYA’s physical environments in line with best practices for juvenile justice and better outcomes for youth success. In addition to better supporting the developmental needs of adolescents and young adults, this plan will ensure a safe and secure environment for OYA front line staff.

Finally, while young women make up only a small portion of OYA’s population we urge you to provide the \$1.4 million in funding and 7.5 positions needed for OYA to open the Young Women’s Transition Program at Oak Creek so that OYA’s female population can take full advantage of supervised community opportunities without having to be housed in the youth correctional facility environment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support for the OYA’s 2015-2017 budget and Capital Construction needs.

Sincerely,

Rolando Ramirez, President
Brenda Freddi, Vice President
Debra Mitzel, Sec/Treasurer
Doug Dryden, Chief Steward
Dan Ferguson, Chief Steward

Salem Headquarters	Bend	Portland	Corvallis	Medford	Eugene	Pendleton
1730 Commercial St. SE PO Box 12159 Salem, OR 97309-0159 503-581-1505 800-452-2146 (Fax) 503-581-1664	925 SE Second St. Suite C Bend, OR 97702-1756 541-385-8471 800-832-0593 (Fax) 541-388-9078	6401 SE Foster Road Portland, OR 97206-4659 503-408-4090 800-527-9374 (Fax) 503-408-4099	Physical Site/Do Not Mail 606 SW 15th St. Rm. 109 Corvallis, OR 97331-4606 541-752-0183 (Fax) 541-752-0241	1257 N Riverside #7 Medford, OR 97501 541-779-4324 800-452-7965 (Fax) 541-779-4325	488 E 11th Ave. Suite 100-B Eugene, OR 97401-3601 541-342-1055 800-521-3446 (Fax) 541-342-2932	200 SE Hailey Ave. Suite 302 Pendleton, OR 97801-3069 541-276-4983 800-452-8146 (Fax) 541-276-4984