



**Tom Chamberlain**, *President*  
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**TO:** Chair Taylor  
Vice-Chair Knopp  
Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

**FR:** Tom Chamberlain, Oregon AFL-CIO

**RE:** *Oregon AFL-CIO Support of SB 1040, The Rural Oregon Worker Protection Act*

April 5, 2017

Chair Taylor, members of the Committee, my name is Tom Chamberlain, President of the Oregon AFL-CIO. We represent the over 300,000 working women and men of the Oregon AFL-CIO. The State Federation of Labor has been the long-term advocate for all workers in the legislative process and a watchdog for potential efforts to undermine workers' rights in Oregon.

The National Labor Relations Act, passed in the 1930's set a regulatory framework for private sector labor relations across the country. Since that time, and some subsequent legislation, some (very few) issues related to private sector labor relations have been left to states to decide, but none have been left to local jurisdictions to decide. Unfortunately, with workers and their unions being under attack from many different angles, a recent development out of the Sixth Circuit Court leaves us concerned about a major disruption in private sector labor relations without this bill where local jurisdictions could, for the first time, attack workers and their unions in the private sector.

As you can see, this bill ensures the status quo of private sector labor relations from the last 80 years and ensures that employers and workers can continue to enter into union security agreements which ensures fairness and consistency for representation costs. This is a minor, but important clarification to ensure these important relationships between employers and labor organizations can continue like they have for many years. You'll hear today from private sector union leaders and employers about why this is a simple and basic clarification in Oregon law.

Thank you for the time to speak with you about this important issue and we look forward to working with this Committee as we move forward.