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February 14, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
General Government Subcommittee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: *Employment Relations Board Budget*  
*HB 5008*

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

I am an attorney representing both public and private sector employers in matters of labor relations. I have served on the Employment Relations Board's (ERB's) Rule Advisory Committee for several consecutive years and in 2011-12, I served as co-chair on ERB's Opinion Evaluation Committee to assist the agency in complying with the footnote in the 2011 funding bill. I am also the General Counsel to the Oregon Public Employer Labor Relations Association (ORPELRA), which consists of public sector management representatives responsible for carrying out labor relations within their respective jurisdictions. Its members include municipal, county and state governments; school districts and university systems; special purpose districts; and lawyers and consultants serving management exclusively. In pursuit of this mission, ORPELRA works with state legislature, members of governing bodies and public administrators.

I am writing on behalf of ORPELRA in support of ERB's identified budget requests and priorities, as outlined in the Governor's Requested Budget. The Governor identified three (3) budget packages to increase ERB funding: (1) Package 100 supports the new job classification for the ERB's board member/chair positions as approved by the Department of Administrative Services; (2) Package 101 supports the development of case management system that would include electronic filing; and (3) Package 102, increases fees for arbitrators looking to be included on ERB's arbitration lists. Each of these proposed packages will assist ERB in carrying out its statutory obligations under the Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA). On behalf of myself as a practitioner who regularly appears before ERB and on behalf of ORPELRA, I support whole-heartedly these budget requests. These changes will facilitate ERB's sustained efforts to improve the efficiency and professionalism of the agency.

In particular, I want to stress the importance of ERB's efforts to modernize its case management system. Electronic Filing of pleadings at ERB would provide much needed simplification and efficiency for parties. As it stands, filings at ERB must be sent by regular mail or by fax. These methods of filings present challenges for practitioners and lead to potential

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would simplify processes and improve party access to the agency.

We urge the committee to recommend approval of the ERB-related funding proposals of the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Very truly yours,



Todd A. Lyon  
Partner  
For FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP

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