



LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PERSONNEL INSTITUTE

**Testimony before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on General Government
In support of SB 5008
February 20, 2017**

Via email to: jvmgg.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

To Co-Chairs Senator Manning, Representative Smith and Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a leading labor relations advisor to and advocate for over one hundred Oregon cities, counties and special districts that employ thousands of public employee represented by labor unions, this is to support passage of SB 5008 to fund the operations of the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

In the coming biennium, the Board's vital work of enforcing Oregon's Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act will require it to continue and complete implementation of the electronic case management system started in the current biennium to provide parties with cases before the Board, their advocates and members of the public the ability to file and review case documents electronically as is already done in Oregon's federal and state courts. This conversion is vitally important to improving the Board's ability to efficiently – and more reliably - adjudicate so many cases before it. It will also improve the transparency of Board proceedings for litigants and the public alike. The Subcommittee's full support of SB 5008 will insure this progress.

The ERB's mission is broad; it must regulate often contentious labor relations in Oregon's public and private sector as well as state personnel relations. On behalf of over one thousand Oregon cities, counties and special districts who rely on the ERB to efficiently and effectively police public sector labor relations, LGPI urges the Subcommittee to approve SB 5008.

Thank you for your consideration.

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