



February 20, 2017

Co-Chair James Manning Jr.  
Co-Chair Greg Smith  
Joint Subcommittee  
On General Government  
900 Court St. - State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Smith, and members of the Committee:

My name is Steve Demarest and I am the President of SEIU, Local 503. I am here today to testify in support of the Employment Relations Board (ERB) budget, HB 5008, and the three policy option packages outlined in the Governor's Requested Budget.

SEIU Local 503 is the union of 65,000 Oregonians doing more than 500 different jobs in 85 state, local government and non-profit agencies and care facilities. The ERB performs several vital functions that foster positive labor relations across all sectors of public employment and labor management relations.

The ERB plays a vital role in assisting employers and unions – large and small -- reach fair collective bargaining agreements through its mediation services. Those mediation services also lend assistance and training to employers and unions in resolving disputes between collective bargaining agreements.

The ERB also effectively enforces the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act through adjudication of alleged unfair labor practices filed to protect statutory and other legitimate interests of employers, employees and labor organizations.

We believe that full and sufficient funding is a necessary component for the ERB to perform all of those and other important functions with which it is charged.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
LOCAL 503

PO Box 12159  
Salem, OR 97309-1259

1730 Commercial St. SE  
Salem, OR 97302

6401 SE Foster Rd.  
Portland, OR 97206

1.800.452.2146  
[www.seiu503.org](http://www.seiu503.org)