

From the Desk of Sen. Michael Dembrow



# Faculty, Researchers, & Students Support House Bill 3170B



## The Issue: A Confusing and Costly System

Oregon's public universities are renowned for compelling research and instruction on forestry, agriculture, energy, human health, and technology. Faculty produce research that directly supports Oregon's top industries and boosts local economies - especially in rural Oregon. Additionally, our world-class research programs are often supported by external grants that result in additional resources for our universities.

Unfortunately, many of those research faculty are unable to collectively bargain. Research faculty have the same teaching, research, and service responsibilities as their colleagues who can collectively bargain. However, some faculty who possess limited supervisory authority have no ability to engage in collective bargaining. This happens despite the fact that their supervisory duties are incidental and often exercised for a limited period of time. This scenario often results in a confusing, inefficient, and expensive system for taxpayers that results in faculty members moving in and out of bargaining units - sometimes every semester.



## The Solution: House Bill 3170

HB 3170 amends the definition of "supervisory authority" in statute to allow public university faculty with limited supervisory authority the right to collectively bargain - if they so choose. The bill will give teaching and research faculty at Oregon's public universities the chance to work collaboratively to shape the direction and priorities of their universities. **HB 3170 passed the Oregon House by a bipartisan vote of 37-22.**



## The Details: Administrators Excluded

The bill **only applies to faculty**. It does not apply to administrators like presidents, vice presidents, provosts, vice provosts, deans, associate deans, assistant deans, heads, or equivalent positions. It **does not** apply to faculty employed in an administrative position without a reasonable expectation of teaching, research, or other scholarly accomplishment. It also prevents supervisors from being in the same bargaining unit as those they supervise.



## Nurses and Firefighters Already Have Similar Rules

Nurses with supervisory authority have had the right to collectively bargain since 1995. **In 2014, a similar bill for fire fighters with supervisory authority passed the Oregon Senate by a bipartisan vote of 18-12.**



## The Supporters: Faculty, Students, & Researchers

*"HB 3170 will save money and time by fixing a confusing and inefficient process. The bill is a simple solution which creates a clear dividing line between administrators and faculty at Oregon's public universities."*

- Public University Professor Dan Andersen

*"The Oregon Student Association urges you to fully support HB 3170. Part of having a quality education means that all stakeholders at our universities have a voice."*

- Oregon Student Association

*"I love the work I do, I care deeply for my students, and I am grateful that I spend each day on the forefront of cutting-edge research...I respectfully urge your support of House Bill 3170, so that I may have the same rights and responsibilities as thousands of my fellow faculty throughout Oregon's public universities."*

- Public University Professor Miguel Goni