

February 6, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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Senator Rob Wagner, Co-Chair

Representative Greg Smith, Co-Chair

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on General Government

Oregon Legislature

900 Court St., NE

Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5509

The Honorable Co-Chairs Wagner and Smith:

My name is Brian Caufield and I am an Oregon licensed attorney serving as the Director of the Labor Relations Services with the University Shared Services Enterprise (“USSE”). Established through statute, USSE provides essential support to Oregon’s Public Universities (“OPUs”) allowing each to focus on mission-critical, student-centered outcomes. I serve as Chief Spokesperson for the OPUs in their negotiations with SEIU Local 503, have appeared before the Oregon Employment Relations Board (“ERB”), and am a member of ERB’s Rules Advisory Committee. A great deal of my practice and time is, therefore, spent working with the dedicated, albeit small, staff of the ERB.

I write in support of the ERB’s budget request for the 2019-21 biennium. The request seeks no special or additional funding for the upcoming biennium, but rather retains current service level. The staff at the ERB provide the Oregon public sector labor relations community an invaluable service, working diligently with employers and labor organizations to protect employees’ desires and maintain labor peace throughout the State. I am continually impressed at how efficiently and effectively the ERB works with the resources it has available.

As a former Board agent with the National Labor Relations Board, I know full well the direct and negative impact a reduction in funding has towards an agency’s mission and on its tirelessly working employees. I urge the Subcommittee to not allow this to occur here in Oregon and, instead, vote in support of the ERB’s funding request.

Should any of the Members of the Subcommittee have any questions, please contact me directly at brian.caufield@oregonstate.edu or at (541) 737-9203.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian A. Caufield
Director, Labor Relations Services