



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

February 7, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on General Government  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SB 5509 -Support for maintaining current staffing and service levels at ERB**

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Rob Wagner and Representative Greg Smith, and Members of the committee,

The American Association of University Professors of Oregon (AAUP-OR) represents, in legislative matters, the Portland State University Chapter of the AAUP (PSU-AAUP) and the faculty at Portland State University, United Academics at the University of Oregon (UAUO) and the faculty at University of Oregon, the Graduate Employees Union (GEU) and graduate employees at Portland State University, United Academics of Oregon State University (UAOSU) and the faculty at OSU, and Oregon Tech-AAUP and faculty at the Oregon Institute of Technology. The latter two have begun contract negotiations for their first collective bargaining agreements and we hope the ERB is there in full force to serve any future needs for these new collective bargaining units. We write to strongly request and recommend that the Employment Relations Board (ERB) be granted funding in the 2019-20 biennium to maintain current staffing and service levels.

The ERB has been pivotal to faculties in resolving significant disputes between our affiliated unions and the administrations of these institutions. Their ability to provide timely mediation; interest based bargaining facilitation on a schedule that enables understanding and resolution of complex problems on our negotiations schedule; and timely adjudication of Unfair Practice Charges has enabled the institutions to enjoy the benefits of labor peace.

We live in uncertain times, and we are witnessing regular attacks on employee organizations that threaten their very existence. Now, more than ever, the State of Oregon needs stability in the level of support it provides its public institutions in labor relations.

On behalf of thousands of faculties, academic professionals and graduate employees at Portland State University, the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology we encourage you to maintain staffing and service levels at the Employment Relations Board for the next biennium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dreiling".

Michael Dreiling  
President, AAUP Oregon  
Professor of Sociology, University of Oregon