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Committee Re: HB 4121

The Dalles is my home, I am raising my four children here. I drive past the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility (NORCOR) every day going to and from my job at a manufacturing plant in the Port of The Dalles. The company I work for is owned by a global corporation and we employ people from Asia, Europe, Mexico, Central and South America. They hold positions from entry level production to supervisory levels including key roles with our science team and upper management.

NORCOR's contract to hold immigrants for ICE instills fear in every individual that is not a US born citizen. Across this nation immigrants have been arrested and detained who possess valid green cards, who have lived and worked and paid taxes in this nation for years, sometimes for decades, and who have been taken into custody without a moment's notice often during routine trips to drop their children off at school, on their way to work or when appearing in court sometimes for as little as a traffic violation.

If ICE were to raid our facility today and arrest everyone who was not a US born citizen it would cripple our business. We could not sustain daily operations, as a significant number of our workers would be indefinitely jailed while the system takes time to determine who will go and who can stay. The lack of due process coupled with the indiscriminate nature of ICE arrests is inhumane and is in direct conflict with the spirit of Oregon's sanctuary law ORS 181A.820. While this is a worst case scenario, it is one we have seen unfold in other states and seems likely to occur in Oregon especially considering the convenience NORCOR's holding facility provides as it sits ready and waiting to hold immigrants for ICE.

One way we can combat this overreach of federal power is to terminate NORCOR's contract with ICE, something our community has been working toward for years. I ask you now to please support our community's efforts to take NORCOR out of the equation by passing HB4121. This is our opportunity to be the authors of our own destiny. Now is the time to take control of our local jail and say no to doing the federal government's bidding which has come at the expense of our community's social and economic health and well being. Please help us create a welcoming Oregon in which we all enjoy peace and freedom, regardless of the county in which we happened to be born.

Respectfully,

Solea Kabakov