



February 7, 2020

Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee,

I write to you today on behalf of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union Local 555, in support of House Bill (HB) 4010. We represent over 25,000 workers in Oregon and Southwest Washington in several industries, including retail, meatpacking, healthcare, and more. UFCW Local 555 workers are a diverse group that have grown into the largest private sector labor union in Oregon, and we are proud to be a strong collective voice for working people.

UFCW supports HB 4010, which will disconnect Oregon's tax code from the federal opportunity-zone tax giveaway created by Congress at the end of 2017. While we are generally supportive of efforts to bring much needed development of affordable housing and other projects to often overlooked areas of our state, we believe that unless we disconnect our tax code from the federal opportunity-zone program we have no guarantee that this will happen. We have no guarantee that the revenue lost by our continued connection will translate into any more investment in Oregon communities than would have happened anyway. We are additionally concerned that unless we disconnect from the federal opportunity-zone tax giveaway Oregon will have to provide tax incentives for investments made outside of our state – that is, there are no guarantees that any investments will be made in Oregon at all.

The best way to guarantee additional investment in our communities is through the study group created by Section 6 of HB 4010, and the development of an Oregon specific program. Oregon absolutely should consider ways to achieve the investments that we agree are needed in our communities – and the study group provides an efficient process for such a discussion.

Passage of HB 4010 is necessary to safeguard Oregon tax revenue, while the study group determines the best way to bring much needed investments into our communities. Oregon can improve upon the bare frame of this federal program and we should do so. We strongly urge this committee to pass HB 4010.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeff Anderson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Anderson
Secretary-Treasurer
UFCW Local 555