



Testimony on in Support of HB 3029

Jeff Gritz

March 1, 2021

Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business & Labor Committee,

On behalf of the over 4,000 members of the Oregon & Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers, I write to urge your support for House Bill 3029. LIUNA's membership includes a range of professional public employees across several regions of the state who provide critical services that help support our communities as well as maintain essential systems and spaces.

The Oregon Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA) affirms the rights of employees to organize and form unions through a framework that supports meaningful communication amongst workers' organizations and employers to aid in encouraging harmonious relationships throughout our state's public employment settings. Currently, physical authorization cards with signatures are required to petition the Employment Relations Board in seeking labor representation. The proposed changes that HB 3029 offers would modernize this process by allowing the option for electronic employee signatures to be permitted going forward, a practice that has been utilized routinely in many other industry activities and operations for years.

Amid the social distancing imperatives associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this change would also serve to better align this process with critical public health protocols and help ensure that workers are able to continue to safely exercise their rights to organize collectively, should they seek to do so. Moreover, this change would correspond to an existing standard in private sector union organizing, as governed by the National Labor Relations Board, which presently permits electronic signatures to be used in demonstrating sufficient showing of interest.

HB 3029 represents an important and common-sense update to the current statute that would serve to both increase efficiency and safety under the public sector organizing process, while helping to better reflect today's modern and varied work settings.

LIUNA urges your support for HB 3029.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Gritz". The signature is stylized and written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jeff Gritz, Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer
Oregon & Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers