

April 22, 2021

Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Rayburn, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Twila Jacobsen, I use she/her pronouns. I am the co-chair of SEIU Local 503. Service Employees International Union Climate Justice Committee. SEIU represents 85,000 workers in Oregon and SW Washington, and has 2 million members nation-wide. Our members include janitors, health care workers, care providers, public workers, and more. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2021 and the labor standards in the -5 amendment.

Budgets are more than dollars and cents. The values embedded in currency is only the monetary system. You are left with translating social, environmental, generational concerns in terms of dollars and cents. We all know that there is so much to do, often feeling totally overwhelmed and on the brink of despair. The normal Oregon storms of the past are stronger, less predictable, more destructive, as are Oregon's wildfires. This is increasing the cost of local and state government. Our farmers and ranchers experience greater costs as well to manage more serious droughts mixed with more intensive weather. Lack of water in the Klamath Basin heralds the end of business as usual. It is very possible that the Tribal Nations will lose the most important cultural icon, the salmon fishery. No more putting off the difficult decisions that are needed NOW.

You can arrange this budget to reflect and move us towards the transitions needed to morph these expensive impacts in ways that create opportunities to work towards mitigating the negative impacts and promoting local initiatives for healthy communities. For example, climate change adaptation will create jobs right here in Oregon that cannot be exported, jobs that will boost urban and rural communities alike. To benefit working Oregon families, these jobs must provide training, dignified wages, labor protections, and safety standards. HB 2021 moves us in the right direction.

Along with other labor voices, we agree that the following provisions of this bill will ensure that clean energy jobs provide good wages and training opportunities to working Oregonians:

- Adopting an apprenticeship standard
- Setting goals for hiring and recruiting veterans, women, and people of color
- Setting an area wage standard
- Providing health and retirement benefits found in section 21

Thank you for your work on this important piece of legislation that will benefit our entire state.

Sincerely,

Twila Jacobsen
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