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January 24, 2023

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the nearly 900 Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17 (PROTEC17) represented employees of City of Portland, I write today in support of HB 2573 which would allow electronic signatures to be used in public sector union organizing. PROTEC17 represents engineers, planners, information technology specialists, and technicians who live and work in the Portland area. Additionally, we represent approximately 8,000 public sector employees across Washington State.

Your support for HB 2573 will modernize the process of forming a public sector union in Oregon and bring it in line with the process already used to form a private sector union. Oregon workers are not well served by the current requirement to sign physical cards to prove interest in forming a union when electronic signatures are commonplace in many other parts of their lives. Financial transactions, legal documents, and medical authorizations can all be successfully accomplished through electronic signatures. It's time to lower this needless barrier to workers organizing to improve their working conditions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we ask for your support for HB 2573.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliot Levin".

Elliot Levin  
Research Director and Legislative Advocate  
PROTEC17