



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

TO: Chair Holvey
Vice-Chairs Elmer and Sosa
Members of the House Business and Labor Committee

FR: Catie Theisen, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: HB 3028 Support, Civic Duty Protections for Board and Commission Members

January 31, 2023

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process.

We know that the voices of workers and everyday Oregonians are critical on state boards and commissions in order to ensure robust representation from Oregon's diverse communities and economic sectors. However, because these are volunteer positions, many are unable to serve as an extension of their work. Consequently, lower-wage workers and front-line workers often need to make the choice to use some of their personal or vacation days just in order to participate.

HB 3028 addresses that by putting in place the same kind of protections that are already in place for jury duty for appointed position meetings, extending the work the legislature has already done with HB 2992 in 2021 to provide stipends for certain board members around financial hardship.

It's critical that boards and commissions are represented by the diverse Oregon voices. When someone has the unique perspective and expertise to be appointed to one of these positions, it's critical that they are able to attend without undue barriers or future financial hardships. We encourage your support of HB 3028.