



February 12, 2024

Chair Nathanson, Vice-chairs Walters, Reschke, and members of the committee on Revenue,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am writing today on behalf of Oregon AFSCME Council 75 in support of HB 4072. Oregon AFSCME represents over 37,000 workers across the State of Oregon in both the public and private sectors. Our membership ranges from the professionals and techs at OHSU to the folks working in local governments that carry out essential services like our own city here in Salem.

The city of Salem has seen a budget shortfall due to the amount of state-owned land, which does not yield revenue returns for the city. In recent years, the city has looked towards cutting essential services which means massive layoffs for working families in the city of Salem. These workers are dedicated to public service and have been employed by the city for years. Layoffs not only affect the single worker, but it affects their family and children.

The public libraries in the city have had their hours cut and some have even shut down completely. During a time of crisis, our members have also expressed concerns that the cuts to the housing authority will have a devastating effect on the general public, leaving residents without the resources they need in order to find safe and affordable housing.

HB 4072 would help the city of Salem and the workers who perform these services to have the capacity to perform essential services like the fire and other public safety services that the state utilizes. This is a step to ensure that these essential services are adequately funded so that we can continue to provide these services. We urge stakeholders to continue to engage us and other partners to continue this important work and conversation for the wellbeing of the Capitol city of Oregon and the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this bill and urge the committee to vote yes on HB 4072.

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar  
Political Coordinator  
Oregon AFSCME