

Submitter: Theresa Fiora Starchild-Wolf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Co-Chairs and members of the committee,

I am a Classified Professional in Student Affairs at Lane Community College since 2003. Prior to that, I was laid off from my former faculty position of 7 years due to budget cuts, in 2002. For the decades I have worked at LCC, I have witnessed cut after cut, while we pass one local bond measure after another--but while the State of Oregon seems to accept that the very wealthy and most successful corporations will not have to pay adequate taxes to fund the public good.

In addition to this experience, I have been the Political Education Chair of my union, LCCEF/AFT-2417, and have sat on every single Bargaining Team for contract negotiations of any kind, since my election as COPE Officer in 2020--right before the pandemic. In that capacity, I've seen time after time where our college, and other local public education entities, cannot afford to hire and pay people a wage that keeps up with local housing, food and other costs. When they try, the following year's budgets involve hiring fewer workers, raising tuition on students, and STILL coming up short so that the people providing the education that creates a productive and economically sustainable society--including well-educated workers--are losing ground in our paychecks each year. I want to see corporations like Nike paying their fair share to sustain the state that has brought such wealth to that corporation. What we have seen in the federal government lately, especially with Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill' is literally looking like the death knell.

Here in Oregon, however, we have a long tradition of fighting for our people and our public services.

Please vote 'YES' on SB 1507!