

Testimony before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on General Government
In support of SB 5509
February 7, 2019

Via email to: jwmgg.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

To the Co-Chairs and to the Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a leading labor relations advisor to and advocate for over one hundred Oregon cities, counties and special districts that employ thousands of public employees represented by labor unions, this is to support passage of SB 5509 to fund the operations of the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

In the coming biennium, the agency is not seeking any special or additional funding for the upcoming biennium, but rather just retaining current service level. The Board's vital work of enforcing Oregon's Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act will require it to do no less, as the demand from unions and public employers from around the state for the Board's services appears to be holding steady. The Subcommittee's full support of SB 5509 will insure this.

The ERB's mission is broad; it must regulate often contentious labor relations in Oregon's public and private sector as well as state personnel relations. Considering the over one thousand Oregon cities, counties and special districts who rely on the ERB to efficiently and effectively police public sector labor relations, LGPI urges the Subcommittee to approve SB 5509.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pierre Robert

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