



April 4, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways & Means Public Safety Subcommittee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: In support of SB 5513, the Judicial Department Budget

Dear Co-Chairs Winters and Piluso and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of NIKE, Inc., thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of a well-functioning court system as it relates to the overall Judicial Department Budget in SB 5513 and HB 3388, which modifies annual salaries of judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit courts and the Oregon Tax Court.

NIKE's global headquarters are based in Washington County, Oregon, and NIKE's roots run deep in Oregon. The company was founded on a handshake, \$500 and mutual trust between legendary University of Oregon track coach Bill Bowerman and Phil Knight, a talented runner for Bowerman's track program in Eugene. From that handshake, NIKE has grown into the world's leading designer, marketer and distributor of authentic athletic footwear, apparel, equipment and accessories for a wide variety of sports and fitness activities, employing thousands of Oregonians.

As NIKE stated earlier this year and in previous legislative sessions, a well-functioning court system is enabled when there is an ability to recruit, retain and appropriately compensate judges. An efficient court system is indispensable for law enforcement, individuals and families in crisis. The courts are also important for business and Oregon's economy. State courts are critical to protecting economic rights, in addition to individual rights.

Because of the proficiency of the Oregon courts, a majority of NIKE's commercial contracts have Oregon choice of law and venue provisions. In some commercial contract disputes, the monetary stakes are high and continued business operations are at issue. In other cases, an immediate temporary restraining order may be requested because the damage caused by delay would be irreparable and cannot be measured in dollars.

NIKE chooses to have our disputes settled in Oregon courts because we know we have in the past received efficient, well-reasoned resolutions to legal issues. The Oregon courts provide a collegial and professional atmosphere that has a low tolerance for lawyer gamesmanship and unprofessional conduct. We are all better served when matters receive timely attention and there is a professional resolution to issues.

When courts can afford to pay to recruit and retain lawyers interested in public service and when business and individuals can rely on the courts to adhere to the rule of law, the Oregon business community, the legal community, the Oregon economy and individual Oregonians all benefit.

NIKE supports a judicial branch budget that provides reasonable compensation for judges given the importance of a continued well-functioning and efficient judiciary as it is critical to the success of the business community, the economy and the State.

Again, thank you for allowing NIKE the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Hilary K. Krane
EVP, Chief Administrative Officer & General Counsel