

Good afternoon,

My name is Amanda Sager, I'm the President of IATSE Local 154 in Ashland, OR and the Chair of the Southern Oregon Central Labor Chapter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to the necessity of the Labor Education and Research Center.

IATSE Local 154 represents the stagehands of Southern Oregon. If you've even seen a play or musical at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, it's our crews that made that magic happen. Our union's executive board and stewards have come to rely on the trainings provided by LERC since we chartered in 2016. They have provided tools and knowledge that go beyond the shop floor. This work is about advocating for all workers in rural Oregon - not just unions, it's about connecting with each other to rebuild stronger communities, and it's about accountability.

LERC is essential to CD 2, we are the largest in the state and home to some of the poorest cities in the state. LERCs policy related research and commitment to equity will directly improve the lives of your constituents. Their work surrounding the status of essential workers under COVID, renewable energy job creation, and an upcoming report on the social, economic, and civic contributions that immigrants have made will surely impact us locally but the entire state.

Oregon is a leader in workers rights and LERC is a key part of that; they're essential to our success. My ask is that the legislature will continue to support LERCs work as a university based state public program.

Thank you for your time.