



Chair Taylor, Members of the Committee,

My name is Jeff Anderson, I am Secretary Treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, We are the largest private sector union in the State of Oregon with members in Southwest Washington. Our local is made up of over 25,000 workers who work in a diverse set of industries including retail, healthcare, bootmakers, and a number of poultry, beef, and seafood processing among others. Our union is growing with the recent addition of 4,000 newly organized workers. Many from rural communities. Our members live in 32 of Oregon's 36 counties.

UFCW Local 555 supports SB 1040 as a much-needed and simple law that assures management and labor have a continued orderly process of labor relations in the private sector.

I grew up in rural Oregon. Today where the lumber mill and fork lift plant stood are empty buildings and lost jobs. My home town of Dallas, Oregon once boasted 1,400 family wage jobs from these sites. Rural Oregon has seen their standard of living decline in correlation to the decline of union jobs in the wood products industry. Many counties have suffered high unemployment and limited opportunity. Today, UFCW 555 members in these communities have fair wages, pensions, and family health insurance. UFCW Local 555 is a union addressing the needs of our members and benefitting our community's in part through collective bargaining. With some contracts dating back to the early 1900's.

A typical Local 555 collective bargaining agreement may cover members in multiple counties, some ranging entire regions of the state. We have been able to maintain consistent representation of our members across county lines in part due to the statewide and national framework set out by the National Labor Relations Act. Due to the court case you've heard about, if a local jurisdiction were to attack workers and their unions by attacking union security agreements, it would create a major imbalance for both the union and employer to manage with the different rules. Union security agreements do one thing – they ensure fair and consistent cost sharing of representation. That's good for workers and it's good for employers.

SB 1040 is a minor, but vitally important bill needed to ensure that status quo of the past 80 years is maintained in private sector labor relations as it relates to union security agreements.

We respectfully request the committee to pass SB 1040.

Jeff Anderson
Secretary treasurer
UFCW Local 555