Economic and Social Policy/International Affairs (ESP/IA #1)

Subject: Supporting a $15 Minimum Wage in Portland
Submitted by: Member Petition
Authored by: Mike Scott, Shamus Cooke and LeeLa Coleman and Ann Montague

WHEREAS, inequalities continue to grow with the top 1% now taking 95% of all new income; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon minimum wage of $9.10 is insufficient for a family to attain a decent standard of living; and

WHEREAS, Portland Jobs With Justice has endorsed a campaign to raise the minimum wage in Portland to $15; and

WHEREAS, unions in Washington successfully fought for and won a ballot initiative that resulted in a $15 minimum wage in the city of SeaTac, Washington; and SEIU 503 OPEU sent members and staff to assist in this victorious campaign; and

WHEREAS, SEIU in Seattle is working within the ‘Working Washington’ coalition to bring the $15 minimum wage to Seattle; and

WHEREAS, SEIU 1021 in California is spearheading a ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage to $15 in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, SEIU nationally helped spearhead the ‘fight for $15’ by organizing ‘fast food strikes’ that demanded “$15 and a union”; and

WHEREAS, non-union people across Oregon would be inspired and appreciate SEIU’s efforts for fighting for a higher minimum wage, thus improving the image of unions in Oregon; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU: That SEIU Local 503, OPEU supports the campaign to raise the $15 minimum wage in Portland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SEIU Local 503, OPEU dedicate at least 5 hours of staff time a week to assist the broad-based coalition group Portland $15 Now, which is

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working with unions and community allies to spearhead a campaign to bring the $15 minimum wage to Portland.

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<tr>
<th>Budget Impact / Cost Estimate:</th>
<th>$12,500</th>
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<td>8/14 Committee Recommendation:</td>
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WHEREAS, SEIU nationally started the Fight For $15 movement; and

WHEREAS, SEIU in California is spearheading a ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage to $15 in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, unions in Washington, including SEIU successfully organized and won an initiative in the city of SeaTac, WA; and SEIU 503 sent members and staff to assist with the multi union campaign; and

WHEREAS, SEIU 503 has implemented an internal member education campaign on Economic Inequality; and is currently planning and looking for community partners for an Economic Inequality Coalition; and

WHEREAS, “$15 Now PDX” is the only Oregon organization working specifically to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour in Portland and state-wide; and they have been officially endorsed by Job With Justice and the National Association of Letter Carriers, Local 82; and they include SEIU 503 members, members of 5 other unions and non union workers; and it is time to work with our partners on this inspiring campaign; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503 OPEU: That SEIU 503, OPEU officially become an endorsing organization of this broad-based coalition: $15 Now PDX; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU 503 will make it a legislative priority to repeal the ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) sponsored preemption law that prohibits Oregon municipalities from raising the minimum wage.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU 503 will support an initiative with unions and community partners to use the Oregon ballot measure system to achieve a $15 minimum wage.
Service Employees International Union
Local 503,
Oregon Public Employees Union

Economic and Social Policy/International Affairs (ESP/IA #3)

Subject: Education Debt
Submitted by: SEIU Local 503, OPEU Board of Directors
Authored by: Michael Jones

WHEREAS, education is a proven way for people to improve their standard of living; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to pursue higher education is becoming out of reach for too many because of the ever-increasing costs and creating a situation where the 1% are able to achieve an education while the shrinking middle class shoulders huge debts and the poor are often frozen out of the game with the exception of a handful of scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the debt incurred by Americans merely trying to get a basic college education is currently over $1 trillion dollars; and

WHEREAS, student loans are at a rate higher than the federal reserve rate and additionally, parents are often tricked into transferring this debt to a regular loan which has an even higher interest rate; and

WHEREAS, we have seen Oregon's universities prioritize highly paid administrators, new buildings and a bloated management structure over students and workers; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU: That SEIU Local 503, OPEU will support efforts to make higher education more affordable and accessible to all Oregonians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU 503 will support efforts to ease the burden of education debt.

Budget Impact / Cost Estimate: No financial impact

8/14 Committee Recommendation:
Passsed___ Not Passed___ Tabled___ Withdrawn___ Referred to/ Combined with___ Held in Committee___
Economic and Social Policy/International Affairs (ESP/IA #4)

Subject: ACA/Healthcare Reform Work
Submitted by: SEIU Local 503, OPEU Board of Directors
Authored by: Michael Jones

WHEREAS, SEIU 503 members have long championed health care reform that assures affordable, accessible healthcare for all including working to pass the Affordable Care Act, endorsing Health Care for All Oregonians and supporting Act Now For a Healthy Oregon; and

WHEREAS, we have experienced some recent successes around healthcare including providing state and university workers more choices in the health care and expanding access to affordable health care to more than 6,000 SEIU 503 members who previously did not have access through the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, there is more work to be done to ensure all SEIU 503 members and Oregonians have access to healthcare that is both high quality and affordable such as increasing transparency on hospital costs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU: That SEIU 503 will work to advance policy initiatives that will expand health care access, reduce costs and increase quality care.

Budget Impact / Cost Estimate: No financial impact

8/14 Committee Recommendation:
Passed___ Not Passed___ Tabled___ Withdrawn___ Referred to/ Combined with___ Held in Committee___
Service Employees International Union
Local 503,
Oregon Public Employees Union

Economic and Social Policy/International Affairs (ESP/IA #5)

Subject: Revenue Reform and Wealth Redistribution
Submitted by: SEIU Local 503, OPEU Board of Directors
Authored by: Rob Sisk and Heather Conroy

WHEREAS, the gap between the wealthy few and the rest of us has grown at a record rate; and

WHEREAS, the wealthiest 1% of Oregonians captured more than half of all income gains in 2011-12; and

WHEREAS, corporate profits are at record highs around the country and here in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has the second lowest corporate tax rate in America; and

WHEREAS, preliminary research indicates that one in five Oregonians employed in the fast-food, retail, hotel/motel, and restaurant industries rely on public assistance meaning that the business model of many profitable corporations in these industries is to push the cost of hiring workers onto taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, despite the economic recovery, 1.3 Million Oregonians -- 1 in 3 of our state’s residents -- relied on the state for food and/or medicine in 2012; and

WHEREAS, close to 200,000 Oregonians on food stamps (SNAP) or the Oregon Health Plan are employed; and

WHEREAS, more than 525,000 Oregon children -- 60% of all Oregon kids -- received public assistance in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the SEIU Local 503, OPEU, Board of Directors has passed a resolution to officially oppose any state revenue plan that would shift the tax burden from the wealthy to middle-income or low-income Oregonians; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU: That SEIU Local 503 shall prioritize the development of a campaign to increase taxes on the wealthy and big corporations either through the legislature or via initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU Local 503 shall explore a campaign to tax low-wage, low-benefit corporations that force taxpayers to pay to feed the employees of those corporations and those employees’ families; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU Local 503 explore a campaign to pay for a tax cut for low-wage workers and parents paid for by a tax increase on the wealthy and large corporations.

Budget Impact / Cost Estimate: No financial impact

8/14 Committee Recommendation:
Passed___ Not Passed___ Tabled___ Withdrawn___ Referred to/ Combined with___ Held in Committee___
Economic and Social Policy/International Affairs (ESP/IA #6)

Subject: Sustainable Investing by the Oregon Investment Council
Submitted by: SEIU Local 503, OPEU Board of Directors
Authored by: Marc Nisenfeld & Rob Sisk

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of our members and the citizens of Oregon that investments made in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) be done within a fiduciary context in a fiscally prudent manner that supports a sustainable economy and best guarantees stable returns over the long term, minimizing risk so all members with a range of retirement dates can be assured of fund security; and

WHEREAS, investments in funds which may realize short-term gains but expose the system to long-term risk and losses through investments in operations that contribute to global climate change by engaging in such reckless and potentially catastrophic natural resource extraction practices such as fracking, strip mining, off-shore drilling and mountain top removal or in operations that neither safeguard the environment nor restore it to previous condition are not suitable long-term and sustainable investment practices due to possible litigation, stranded assets, the high cost of attempted recovery and restoration efforts, the extreme likelihood of extensive and irreversible damage to the environment, as well as the adverse public image; and

WHEREAS, investments in funds which may realize short-term gains but expose the system to long-term risk and losses through involvement in business operations which threaten or compromise existing union jobs or the workers’ right to organize, exploit working people through substandard wages, poor working conditions and threaten the livability of their communities or do not nurture and demonstrate the value and respect of human capital by exploiting workers through low wages, oppressive and unnecessarily arduous working conditions, and exposure to health and safety hazards through substandard, reckless or laxly regulated agricultural, manufacturing, mining and retail operations, are neither humane nor take into consideration the long-term health of a company that depends on worker –management cooperation, investment in workers through training and personal security, and nurturing and retention of a quality workforce; and

WHEREAS, investment in funds of a highly speculative nature that rely on unsound financial and/or business practices on the expectation of immediate gains undermine the stability of investment returns and actually create and increase risk for the PERS fund and for members who have it as part of their compensation and rely on it for their retirement security; and

WHEREAS, as seen in the market crash of 2007-8 and the Great Recession, the biggest risk to the health of PERS is the overall health of the economy given that the Oregon
Investment Council as an investor of billions of dollars is invested across the entire economy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU: That SEIU Local 503, OPEU, continue to advocate for safe and sound investment practices by the Oregon Investment Council (OIC) that include but are not limited to:

- an awareness of the sensitive and delicate nature of the environment, the potential irreversible negative impact of industry on it and the OIC mitigating its exposure to environmental investment risks;
- the OIC engaging actively with companies in its portfolio so those companies take active steps to manage the risk of climate change to ensure the long term health of and
- the OIC avoiding investments that may directly contribute to global climate change and its devastating effects and therein place our retirement funds at risk;
- the OIC through its investment practices demonstrating a respect and appreciation for human capital by engaging actively with companies in its portfolio so those companies take active steps to manage the risk of income inequality and worker satisfaction to ensure the long term health of the their companies; that the OIC striving to influence such companies to treat their workforce with dignity and as a source of long term value for their companies as a step to minimize the risk to our members retirement security; and
- the OIC through its investment strategies avoiding risky, speculative investment ventures that do not rest on sound and secure financial practices, but focus on an expectation of short term results and the OIC instead maintaining a strategy that safeguards all members’ anticipated retirement dates through long term, stable investments based on promoting a sustainable economy as the key factor in assessing fiduciary risk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU Local 503, OPEU, continue its monitoring of the OIC and its advocacy of sustainable, humane investment practices through its Capital Stewardship committee and any other related structures, activities and opportunities.

Budget Impact / Cost Estimate: No Financial impact

8/14 Committee Recommendation:

Passed___ Not Passed___ Tabled___ Withdrawn___ Referred to/ Combined with___ Held in Committee___