

We come here today in good faith and with open minds to begin special coalition bargaining. Oregon State workers are on the ground and at the frontlines to keep our state running. Over the last 3 years state employees have stepped up during a pandemic, natural disasters, and changing work environments, we have been flexible, adaptable and resilient. We are proud of the work we do and proud of the services we provide to Oregon families and communities.

Even after all we have accomplished there are still lingering issues in our workplaces that need to be addressed. We need work environments that ensure our safety, offer opportunities to advance, where all workers feel valued and appreciated. 20% of state jobs are currently vacant and we need to retain our work force and provide incentives for new employees, because these things help workers feel more engaged and supported. Once again, state workers keep our state running!

We are looking forward to having productive discussions and collaboration to settle a new contract that meets the needs of the states represented workers, so we can continue to provide excellent services to Oregon families and communities. Thank you for listening and again we look forward to this bargaining session.