



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CASEY KULLA • RICHARD L. "RICK" OLSON • MARY STARRETT

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April 25, 2019

Governor Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Proposal to raid SAIF reserves

Dear Governor Brown:

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners opposes any proposal to raid SAIF reserves to backfill current budget deficits or satisfy unfunded liabilities such as Oregon's Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

As you know, SAIF has been providing workers' compensation insurance in Oregon for over one-hundred years. It is one of the most successful programs in the nation. SAIF issues over half of the state's workers' compensation policies and protects half-a-million Oregon workers every day. SAIF's participants include small businesses, non-profits and local government entities that rely on its low rates and excellent coverage. Because of reforms championed by SAIF, policyholders are now paying less for workers' compensation insurance than they were 30 years ago.

Yamhill County's departments and employees participate in SAIF and we have benefitted from incentives to create safe working environments, low insurance rates, and the peace of mind of a solvent, successful program for our employees.

- SAIF's reserves are essential to protecting the safety of Oregon workers and ensuring low rates for employers throughout the state.
- Small businesses, school districts, local governments and non-profits depend on SAIF's affordable rates and safety programs to ensure a safe and healthy workplace.
- Raiding SAIF's reserves will negatively impact worker safety and accident prevention.
- Any excess premiums (that created the reserves) should go back to the employers who have paid them.

SAIF has been successful due to the partnership between employers who proactively create safer working environments, employees who train and execute those safety standards, and SAIF which rewards safe employers with low rates and reinvestment dividends.

B.O. 19-128



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Raiding SAIF's reserve funds will only undermine this successful program, putting at risk the advantages that Oregon employers and policyholders have nationwide.

We urge you to protect SAIF's reserve funds from being used as a bailout for Oregon's unfunded PERS liabilities. We feel this is an inappropriate action to take against SAIF's policyholders.

Respectfully,

Chair, Richard L. "Rick" Olson

Vice-Chair, Mary Starrett

Commissioner, Casey Kulla

CC: Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney sen.petercourtney@oregonlegislature.gov
Oregon House of Representatives Speaker Tina Kotek Rep.TinaKotek@oregonlegislature.gov
All Legislative Members of the Oregon House and Senate via email

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
4/25/19 by Board Order
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