



MEASURE: SB 1556
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United Streetcar, LLC
9700 SE Lawnfield Rd
Clackamas, OR 97015

February 21, 2012

Oregon House of Representatives Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee Members:

We regret that we are unable to testify in person, but appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for Oregon Senate Bill 1556. We are wholly in favor of Bill 1556, giving extra credit for transit projects exceeding the Federal requirement of 60% made in America content, on federally funded projects.

Manufacturing jobs are important to our local and national economies. These jobs pay, on average 21% more in wages and benefits than the average for the entire economy, and they more often provide health, pension and other benefits. Manufacturing is a major driver of economic growth - every dollar in final sales of manufactured products supports \$1.37 in other sectors of the economy. Additionally, on average each manufacturing job supports 2.5 jobs in other sectors, and at the upper end, each high-tech manufacturing jobs supports 16 jobs.

The state of California passed CA Assembly Bill 1097-2011, in October 2011, giving a bidding preference to a bidder, if the bidder exceeds Buy America requirements, due to the economic impact of declining American manufacturing. California recognizes the need to bring manufacturing jobs back to their state, and our country. They believe "it is in the best interest of the State of California, as well as the manufacturers across the nation, to authorize state and local agencies to give preference to bidders on rolling stock contracts that provide domestic content above the minimum requirements set forth in the federal "Buy America" laws." (From section (f) of Bill 1097).

Allowing transit agencies to give extra credit for projects exceeding the Federal requirements allows companies, such as ourselves, a significant opportunity to increase the numbers of jobs we can offer to the citizens of our state, helping support and boost local economies.

As President of United Streetcar, we are committed to using as much local content as possible and are committed to exceeding the standard Buy America threshold and we believe correspondingly we should be able to receive extra credit for increasing the overall US content of our vehicles.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chandra Brown
President
United Streetcar, LLC