



May 17, 2013

Representative Michael Dembrow
900 Court Street NE, H-487
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Dembrow:

The Associated General Contractors, Oregon-Columbia Chapter very much appreciates your interest in engaging and soliciting our perspective on an issue as fundamental to our industry as apprenticeship.

As you may or may not be aware, AGC has a long history of making substantial investments in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs like the ACE program and the NW Construction College programs, among many others.

As you know, AGC has been very active in this session on the issue of a potential Apprenticeship Utilization standard or requirement on public work. Our best effort to craft a statewide policy is contained in SB782 that passed out of the Senate on a 27 yes, 1 no and 2 excused vote and has now been referred to your committee.

We view SB782 as it has been referred to your committee as our best effort to take the initial, but prudent, first step toward increasing apprenticeship opportunities in a phased in manner that avoids unintended consequences. Our guiding principle is that an apprenticeship standard or requirement must be workable for all types of contractors, including union & open shops, general contractors and specialty contractors alike. In addition a standard or requirement must allow the flexibility to apply to all types of construction work and in every region throughout the state.

For these reasons outlined above, we do not support amending SB782, especially considering the complexity of the issues and the limited time remaining in this legislative session.

Regardless of the fate of SB782, we do support the formation of a workgroup that is charged with a comprehensive review of a potential statewide apprenticeship utilization standard that engages the many stakeholder groups, led by the industry --including both labor and management-- and includes public owners.

We would like to suggest the approach utilized in the last interim that Representatives Holvey & Whisnant and Senator Beyer utilized on an equally complex issue: alternative construction methods and