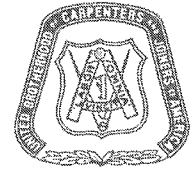


Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



Affiliated with
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America



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March 17, 2015

Re: HB 2617

Dear Charwoman Fagan and Members of the House Consumer Protection and Governmental Effectiveness Committee:

On behalf of the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters, please accept this written testimony in support of HB 2617, which would protect the State of Oregon from irresponsible construction contractors.

It is important to protect the State of Oregon, its taxpayers, and responsible businesses from contractors who conduct business in an unfair and/or irresponsible manner. It should be of utmost importance for the State to shield itself on publically funded construction projects. By adopting House Bill 2617, we believe the State will be doing its due diligence, and fulfill its obligation to Oregon tax payers, and responsible businesses to see that projects are built by contractors who uphold laws, satisfy the tax obligations, are licensed, insured, and do not have a track record of unlawful activity.

The language surrounding public improvement contracts has always been somewhat ambiguous, and HB 2617 aims to tighten up the laws to avoid future grey areas that exist today. As a labor organization we have seen first hand where these grey areas have allowed questionable contracting firms on to public projects. We have seen contractors who have been fined by BOLI for unpaid wages, yet continued to receive public contracts. We have seen contractors who have been debarred from public works on three occasions, yet continued to receive public contracts once debarment was lifted. We have seen contractors close shop on one firm due to tax liens, and re-open the next day under another name to avoid liability.

We have seen irresponsible contractors receive public contracts time and again, while honest and responsible contractors continue to lose public contracts due to the unfair advantage created by contractors who work around laws and requirements. It is time to close some of the loopholes, and clear up the grey areas in our existing laws and hold all contractors at the same level of professionalism, honesty, and responsibility that the State of Oregon, and it's taxpayers deserve.

Again, the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters strongly supports HB 2671 and urges the House to do the same. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Tyson Stuber
Lead Representative
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters