



To: Chair Dembrow, Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

From: Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities

Date: March 16, 2015

Re: SB 809 Concerns

On behalf of Oregon's 242 cities, the League of Oregon Cities appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 809. This bill would require all contractors and subcontractors to be certified as apprenticeship training agents with the Bureau of Labor & Industries, with additional requirements to have either used apprentices for at least 10% of all hours in the previous year or having belonged to a local joint apprenticeship training council that used apprentices for 10% of hours in the previous year. Failure to meet these requirements would result in contractors and subcontractors being ineligible to bid on public works projects.

The League is interested in the state expanding both career and technical education opportunities and working to support, enhance and expand apprenticeship programs statewide. However, without assurances that the requirements in SB 809 are attainable on an ongoing basis, we have concerns that the requirements could significantly narrow the pool of eligible contractors and subcontractors bidding on public projects. Such limitations on competition could increase the overall price of projects at a time when we have substantial infrastructure needs and limited resources available to address these needs.

Furthermore, SB 809 requires public contracting agencies to acquire information in order to verify compliance with the requirements of the bill for public works projects over \$1 million. This would require staff time to not only determine whether both the contractor and subcontractor meets responsible bidder requirements. We also share concerns that this process could delay the start of projects.

We would appreciate some additional time to get interested parties together to discuss these requirements in order to better understand how these changes might impact public works projects.