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The Honorable Mark Hass, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Hass and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the 300,000 workers of the Oregon AFL-CIO, I am writing to you today to support the swift passage of Senate Bill 64. This bill will keep the job-creating Oregon Convention Center Hotel project on track and clear away any doubt that it can finally move to completion.

I encourage you and Members to consider the economic impact that the Convention Center Hotel will bring to our state. We have an opportunity to create real jobs: 2,000 in the building and construction trades and over 900 in the hospitality sector. This project will also expand Oregon's tourism industry by adding the capacity to attract between five and ten new, large conventions each year where attendees will spend an average of \$330 per day at our local businesses. It's clear that this project will provide a much-needed boost to Oregon's economy.

Every month we delay getting this hotel project completed, we lose potential convention groups, and the spending these groups would bring to our state. Senate Bill 64 simply clarifies that Metro's charter is the source of authority for issuing revenue bonds to be repaid by visitor taxes.

I urge you to support the swift passage of SB 64 and make the most of Oregon's investment in our tourism industry and in middle class job creation. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Chamberlain
President, Oregon AFL-CIO