



Support for HB 2664 – Prevailing Wage on Public University Lands

We urge you to support HB 2664 to bring consistency to the prevailing wage law for university construction projects. HB 2664 simply clarifies that prevailing wage law applies to all projects that will be owned or used by an institution of public education, regardless of their governance structure.

In 2013, the legislature re-affirmed that prevailing wage is required on projects on public university lands. This bill passed by a vote of 49-10 in the House and 27-2 in the Senate. The sentiment was simple, if the construction is intended to be part of the university, prevailing wage should apply.

HB 2664 fixes a drafting error created when the 2013 legislature allowed universities to operate under independent governing boards, which inadvertently removed them from the requirement to follow certain prevailing wage statutes. HB 2664 clarifies that our state's prevailing wage laws apply to public universities with governing boards.

HB 2664 provides consistency for all public universities to follow the same prevailing wage requirements. Under HB 2664 and the -1 amendments, universities regardless of governance model will be required to pay the state prevailing rate of wage and will not be allowed to divide public projects in an attempt to avoid paying the prevailing rate of wage.

Payment of prevailing wage is an important public policy, both for Oregon families and for Oregon's economy. Prevailing wage laws not only ensure a better-paid, better-trained workforce, but also help facilitate apprenticeship programs to grow our workforce into the future.

We urge your support of HB 2664