

Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



*Affiliated with
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America*



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Re: SB 137

Dear Chairman Dembrow and Members of the Senate Workforce Committee:

On behalf of the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters, which represents nearly 6000 men and women carpenter craft employees, please accept this written testimony in support of SB 137, which is just a simple fix to an unintended glitch in Oregon's Prevailing Wage Law. Passage of SB 137 would delete the words "privately owned" in ORS 279C.800(6)(a)(B) and ensure Prevailing Wages were paid on any project receiving over \$750,000 in public funds, which we believe was the intent of the 2007 amendment to the law.

It is the obligation of our State to ensure employees working on publically funded projects receive the prevailed wage rate. Prevailing Wage laws have long existed to combat a tendency of certain construction firms to degenerate into destructive wage and price competition, which may drive skilled workers from the industry, and reduce productivity and quality, all without saving construction customers any money. Prevailing wage laws are designed to level the playing field and ensure construction customers are provided competitive bids based on quality, skill, and production speed, rather than who can win the race to the bottom when it comes to wages.

Prevailing wage laws need to be upheld, and supported by all entities involved. The Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters urges you to support SB 137, which would uphold the original intent of the 2007 amendment of Oregon's Prevailing Wage Laws and provide the prevailed wage rate on projects receiving over \$750,000 in public funding- despite who may own the land in which the project is built. Please, on behalf of the tens of thousands of skilled construction craft employees, vote "yes" on SB 137. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Ben Basom
Director of Communications
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters