

# Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



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



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## **RE: House Bill 2616 with the -2 amendment**

Chair Read and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters; which represents over 6,000 carpenter craft men and women in Oregon alone, I encourage you to do all you can to support House Bill 2616. Investing in Oregon's workforce is imperative to our state's future, and creating a Career and Technical Education Revitalization Grant Fund is the way to do it.

With so many of Oregon's construction craft workers looking forward to retirement in the next three to seven years, the time to start training their replacements is now. Construction accounts for a large part of our employment, and a large revenue stream for Oregon. By investing in pre-apprenticeship programs we can assure the continuity of both employment of construction professionals, and state revenue. For years, pre-apprenticeship programs have acted as a great springboard in to a lifelong career in a number of construction crafts. A recent economic study showed that for every \$1 invested in apprenticeship and training, over \$7 is returned through increases in spending in local communities, and tax revenue collected through income, and other payroll taxes.

Investing in our future workforce by advocating for, and creating funding mechanisms for pre-apprenticeship programs, and continued education and training is very important, and supporting House Bill 2616 is the smart way to do it. Again, on behalf of the 6,000 working women and men carpenter craft employees in Oregon, I urge you to please support HB 2616. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ben Basom  
Director of Communications  
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters