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**House Bill 2162: Apprentices to perform 10 percent of work hours on public improvement**

Testimony for Public Hearing  
House Committee on Business and Labor

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For the record, my name is Tiffany Thompson. I am the Advocacy Program Manager for Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. Good afternoon to the Committee on Business and Labor, Chair Holvey and Vice-Chairs Barreto and Bynum, and all other members. I am here to testify, on behalf of Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc (OTI) in support of House Bill 2162. Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. We believe that this bill supports Oregon re-investing in local economies, ensures contractors participate in training upcoming workforce, and, long-term, assist in diversify the trades workforce.

Established in 1989, Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. (OTI) is dedicated to promoting success for women in the trades through education, leadership, and mentorship. Since 2004, OTI has trained and educated more than 1,100 diverse, low-income women for high-wage construction trades career opportunities through our pre-apprenticeship program. On average, 31% of our students are women of color. Last year, OTI's nationally recognized, state-certified pre-apprenticeship program graduated 80 women and placed 88 women into secure jobs in the construction trades. About one-third of Oregon's female apprentices are graduates of Oregon Tradeswomen's pre-apprenticeship and manufacturing program.

As the industry faces worker shortages, apprenticeship is critical to providing quality training for a new workforce. While each craft has its own training entity, the state can play an active role in ensuring apprenticeship utilization by contractors. By requiring apprenticeship on public improvement projects, Oregon is re-investing tax dollars into local economies and increasing the impact of that money by simultaneously providing on-the-job training. At OTI, apprenticeship is the pathway from poverty to a family wage job. For anyone who cannot afford to take time off of work or do not want significant student loans – apprenticeship opens the door to the middle class. As paid, on the job learning, apprenticeship allows graduates of OTI to establish a life-long career and a skill that will benefit them wherever they go. In addition to the other benefits of apprenticeship, this bill also provides the opportunity for more diverse workers to enter the industry. Setting a firm goal for apprenticeship will help diverse workers get continual employment and opportunities to work with larger contractors.

In conclusion, Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. supports House Bill 2162. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Tiffany Thompson