

Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



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



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Senate Committee on Workforce

RE: SB 1040

Dear Chairwoman Taylor and members of the Senate Committee on Workforce:

On behalf of over 5,000 working women and men in the NW Carpenters Union in Oregon we ask for your support of SB 1040: relating to union security agreements. Oregon is steeped in a rich history of supporting working families, yet despite the history working people still face constant attacks in our state through out of state special interest groups and dark money. Passage of SB 1040 will help minimize the attacks that working families have been facing for decades in this state.

Every year a new threat to workers, organized labor, our economy, and our communities emerges and typically comes under a threat of (so called) right to work legislation. Right to work is a misnomer as it has nothing to do with any individual's right to secure or maintain employment. Federal law already exists; and has for decades, that allows workers the freedom to choose whether or not to join a union. Right to work is aimed at weakening the collective bargaining power that workers have as union members. By weakening union, and worker's ability to prosper- everyone loses. Workers who earn a living wage benefits the economy and their communities through increased tax revenue, and increases in disposable income that is directly spent in local communities. Thriving economies directly correlate with prosperous workers. SB 1040 aims to maintain Oregon's thriving consumer based economy while protecting the entire state from creating an uneven patchwork of wage standards if some areas or municipalities were protected and some weren't.

Allowing corporate servitude laws like right to work exist in a state, or local municipality creates a downward spiral for all. In right to work states workers earn on average 12% less per year than workers in free bargaining states like Oregon. What would happen to our state coffers should tax revenue decrease by the same amount? On behalf of the 5,000 members of the NW Carpenters Union who are citizens of this great state, I remind you that we are all in this together. It is our wages, and ability to prosper that helps maintain roads, schools or keeps small business' going, and helps fund public safety and services. It is up to those we elected to uphold our state's principles of protecting and supporting working families. Passage of SB 1040 will help do just that. Again, we strongly urge support of SB 1040. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ben Basom
Director of Communications
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters

BB/ja;Opeiu #11 Representing members in Alaska • Idaho • Montana • Oregon • Washington • Wyoming

www.nwcarpenters.org

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