



In support of HB 2162 A

Honorable Chair Taylor;

We apologize for not being able to provide testimony in person for this important effort to improve our construction industry. Through this letter, the Associated Wall and Ceiling Contractors of Oregon are voicing support for HB 2162 A as well as the proposed -5 amendments. We will let others debate the details of the various amendments. Instead, it is our goal today to share our support for the effort to increase opportunity for those seeking to enter the construction industry. Such efforts are of significant value and in the end these proposals share that aim.

While affiliated with a number of trade groups and alliances, the Associated Wall and Ceiling Contractors are primarily a dozen large construction contractors who design and install a wide variety of mostly commercial interior and exterior wall and ceiling systems. In combined total, they employ approximately 2500 employees on construction sites for more than \$200 Million in payroll and benefits and total revenues and expenses of over \$300 Million each year. Among their many employees are hundreds of apprentices in several different trades and specialties.

Associated Wall and Ceiling Contractors believe in apprenticeship as it is the time tested and valued process of teaching a trade. But we recognize this process is not always easy for every employer and that is why it is important to look forward to the needs of the future and encourage as many contractors as possible to give opportunity as broadly as possible. Apprenticeship is not a political issue and should not be treated as such. It is about opportunity, training, safety, quality construction and developing careers.

The Associated Wall and Ceiling Contractors encourage serious consideration of the current -5 amendments but at a minimum we ask that you forward this bill as currently written with a due pass recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Killin'.

John Killin, AWCC Executive Director