



Oregon State
Building and Construction Trades Council
AFL-CIO



Chair Ginny Burdick
Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 455

Dear Chair Burdick and Committee Members:

I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify today in support of SB 455.

I am the Executive Secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, an umbrella organization representing over 40,000 construction workers in 27 local unions throughout Oregon that are highly skilled in a wide array of crafts.

While I am very pleased with the progress we've made to advance inclusion and equality in the building and construction trades, more needs to be done. This bill is not intended to discredit any of the good work that is being done by our industry, but rather encourage us to continue in the right direction. Research shows that racial and gender disparities are still an issue in many industries, especially in leadership roles. This Bill would help strengthen communities by creating career opportunities and pathways into apprenticeship for the next generation, and a gateway particularly for women and residents of color. This is why this Bill is so important to the Oregon Building and Construction Trades industry.

This Bill would do similar to what our neighbors to the North and South are already doing with utilization requirements on public projects. Requiring contractors working on Community Colleges, Community College Districts, and Public Universities, to utilize apprentice labor, women, and people of color on construction projects valued at \$8 million or greater should not be viewed as a burden to them or the institutions. This would simply ensure that all contractors hire apprentice workers enrolled in an apprenticeship program approved or recognized by the State of Oregon, and that women and people of color are also given an equal pathway to a career in the trades.

We regard the contractor community as a valued partner who shares our commitments to professionalism, quality, craftsmanship, and safety as our members build the infrastructure necessary for the well-being of our communities. Contractors share our commitment to strong labor and wage standards that protect workers, pay good wages and benefits, and uplift our communities. That's why we would never support any type of policy that would impede responsible and law abiding contractors ability to win work and create jobs.

Building Trades Apprenticeship programs are privately funded and spend over \$1.5 billion annually on training. All of our registered apprenticeship programs in Oregon are administrated by the state.

As a man of color, and a father of 2 daughters, and someone that was organized in 2001 into the trades, and went through a 4 year apprenticeship program, I know how much this policy will mean for women and people of color looking for a career in the trades.

I urge you to please vote "YES" on SB 455, and I thank you for the opportunity to share my remarks.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Camarillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Camarillo
Executive Secretary