



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
15937 NE Airport Way  
Portland, OR 97230

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Re: HB 4143 – Prohibits spending moneys of State of Oregon or of public body on or for the benefit of Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs, known as IRAPS

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wayne Chow. I am the President of IBEW Local Union 48, Portland, Oregon. I am here today on behalf of our 5,000 union electrical workers in support of HB 4143. We are among the many dedicated trade unions in Oregon that take great pride in our registered apprenticeship programs. We are the standard for craftsmanship, accountability, and safety, all without using any public funds to produce the best Journey level workers in the industry.

The proposed Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) by the US Department of Labor is a way to water-down “apprenticeship standards” that may increase the much needed supply of labor, but at the same time, lower the quality of skill, training, and safety that we have worked so hard to advance and maintain.

Oregonians deserve the safest buildings and structures, and that is what we build.

Thank you for your time and we urge you to vote “YES” on HB 4143.

Respectfully yours,

Wayne Chow  
IBEW LU 48  
PRESIDENT

