

















Contact: Chris Carpenter chris@focuspointcom.com March 15, 2021

Yes on Senate Bill 420: Support Local Oregon Workforce & Business

Members of the Senate Committee on Business & Labor:

Senate Bill 420 will help local contracting agencies and contract review boards around the state develop and implement community benefit contracts that help ensure their public construction projects holistically benefit their communities.

SB 420 allows local contracting agencies and local contract review boards to voluntarily develop and adopt community benefit contracts with requirements for contractors bidding on public construction projects. The bill sets a base framework for such contracts and allows for the local contract review boards/agencies to establish further requirements based on the communities' unique needs.

Should a local contract review board or contracting agency decide to adopt the community benefit contract model, bidders would be bound to certain community benefit provisions on these projects. As a base, these include:

- Qualification as a Registered Training Agent with BOLI.
- Providing family healthcare to workers on the project.
- Employment of registered apprentices at a percentage determined in developing the contract.

The community benefit contract model is an optional economic and workforce development tool for local governments that will:

- Create opportunities to advance economic equity for BIPOC workers and contractors.
- ✓ Support local contractors in providing good jobs and benefits to workers in the community.
- ✓ Support the training and development of a skilled and diverse workforce via state registered training agents for apprentices.
- ✓ Allow for development of local standards that meet the specific needs of communities and prioritizes local economies around Oregon.

Senate Bill 420 will help support responsible public construction, workforce standards, and economic development while accounting for the differing needs in Oregon communities.

We urge you to support local governments, businesses, and workers by voting yes on Senate Bill 420.