



Governor Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court St., Ste 254  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

House Committee on Rules

May 3, 2021

**Bill Harvey**  
Commission Chair  
bharvey@bakercounty.org

Re: Testimony on SB 493A

Baker County appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 493A, which proposes a significant change to Oregon prevailing wage statutes. As the local government, the County is required to abide by these statutes and must pay prevailing wage rates on all public works projects. The County believes that this change could result in unexpected increases in costs of some projects.

At the local government level, SB 493A will significantly impact public works projects by tying prevailing wages to the highest wage in a collective bargaining agreement in the region. The result will be increased costs for construction or maintenance of all infrastructure projects including water and sewer conveyances and treatment facilities, lessen the number of miles roads that can be resurfaced, and reduce the number of affordable and veteran housing projects.

Like many rural counties, Baker County is already drawing out financial resources to their limit and community infrastructure needs are far higher than the financial resources available. It is imperative that projects funded with state and federal funds be completed, as the necessity to preserve the public health, public safety, community livability, and economic viability is the priority of any local government.

Please, consider the impact that SB 493A will have on public bodies that will have to bear the costs of above-market wages for public projects and the devastation that wage increase will have on getting projects completed. Vote 'no' on SB 493A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Harvey", with a long, sweeping underline.

Bill Harvey, Chair  
Baker County Commission