



HB 2419

House Committee on Business and Labor

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Grayber, and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide you written testimony on behalf of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council concerning HB 2419. The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council is a statewide umbrella organization comprised of 27-member local unions, representing tens of thousands of skilled trades workers throughout the State of Oregon. My name is Robert Camarillo and I am the Executive Secretary of the organization. I am a byproduct of a state registered 4-year Iron Worker apprenticeship program and have over 24 years of experience working both nonunion and union in many facets of the industry.

HB 2419 will help stabilize construction costs on publicly funded projects by attracting a higher skilled workforce, minimizing costs by increasing efficiency by way of reducing the time required to complete projects. Prevailing wages help ensure that taxpayer dollars don't get used to undercut local wage and benefits standards. Studies show that prevailing wages help strengthen communities by creating career opportunities and pathways into building and construction trades apprenticeships for the next generation, and a gateway especially for women and workers of color. Building Trades apprenticeship programs are privately funded and together with local unions and contractors, we spend over \$1.6 billion annually on apprenticeship training and

continued training. All our state registered apprenticeship training programs are administered by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Supporting HB 2419 is not about wanting to roadblock public infrastructure investments or spending by increasing the cost of projects, or to give large contractors a bid advantage. It is merely about streamlining the process, to align with the initial intent of the policy, and to level the playing field for Oregon skilled workers and contractors in the construction industry. A [recent study](#) by the University of Oregon Labor Education & Research Center and the Illinois Economic Policy Institute confirms that in Oregon reinforces that prevailing wages incentivize contractors to compete on experience and skill level, rather than who can pay workers the least. A skilled construction workforce is more productive, and statistics show that they also contribute significantly more to the state's economy, compared to lower paid, unskilled, inexperienced workers who are injury prone and become a burden on state resources. We would not be supporting this policy if it hindered responsible and law-abiding contractors' chances of winning projects that help create family-sustaining wage jobs.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 2419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Camarillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Robert Camarillo

Executive Secretary

Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council

The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council is comprised of the following trades and regional councils throughout the state:

1. Boilermakers Local 242
2. Bricklayers Local 1
3. Cement Masons Local 555
4. Heat and Frost Insulators Local 36
5. Drywall Finishers Local 101
6. IBEW Local 48
7. IBEW Local 112
8. IBEW Local 280
9. IBEW Local 659
10. IBEW Local 932
11. Elevator Constructors Local 23
12. Glaziers Local 740
13. Ironworkers Local 29
14. Ironworkers Shop Local 516
15. Ironworkers District Council
16. Laborers Local 737
17. OR & S. Idaho District Council of Laborers
18. Floor Coverers Local 1236
19. Office & Professional Employees Local 11
20. Operating Engineers Local 701
21. Painters & Drywall Finishers Local 10
22. Painters District Council No. 5
23. Plasterers Local 82
24. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 290
25. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 598
26. Roofers Local 49
27. Sheet Metal Workers Local 16
28. Sheet Metal Workers Local 55
29. Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 669
30. Teamsters Local 162
31. Joint Council of Teamsters No. 37

Six Regional Building and Construction Trades Councils:

1. Central Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council
2. Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council
3. Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Council
4. Pendleton Building and Construction Trades Council
5. Salem Building and Construction Trades Council
6. Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council