



International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 16

2379 N.E. 178th AVE., SUITE 16
PORTLAND, OREGON 97230-5957
PHONE: (503) 254-0123 • FAX: (503) 254-0157

Chair Paul Holvey
Vice Chair Daniel Bonham
Vice Chair Dacia Grayber
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

February 10, 2021

RE: Yes on HB 2419

In discussions about HB 2419, some key labor cost savings strategies were overlooked. I have spent the last 32 years in construction and have seen a lot of changes that result in faster completion, better training for apprentices, and fewer overall hours needed.

First, technology. This one component can and often does reduce the 25% labor costs identified per project. In fact, one highly trained individual can replace eight unskilled workers completing the same task by using technology such as Total Station, Building Image Modeling, Blue Beam and Revit, just to name a few.

For example, utilizing Building Image Modeling saves both time and money by identifying potential issues prior to a project starting. This is the equivalent of taking a virtual tour of a completed building and having the ability to inspect every detail of a project and correct any issues in advance. This prevents wasted building materials, streamlines labor costs, prevents back charges, avoids change orders, and keeps the construction schedule on track by streamlining coordination of all crafts working on a project. Companies that invest in a highly skilled workforce capable of utilizing new innovative technology are always finding ways to stay competitive.

Another point that was only briefly touched on that also drastically reduces labor costs is Crew Costing, the practice of utilizing the maximum allowed apprentice ratio on Prevailing Wage jobs to lower the overall labor costs. To put Crew Costing into real-world dollars and cents, a four-person crew on a PW project for our craft will see a reduction of \$51.00 per hour using two Journeyman and two Apprentices. This Apprenticeship utilization Crew Costing also promotes career pathways for our constantly growing industry. If a contractor is not a registered training agent the only classification that contractor can legally utilize on a PW job, according to BOLI, is a Journeyman rate employee. This would increase the labor costs by \$51.00 per hour on the same four-person crew.

If I can answer questions or provide information, please feel free to contact me. rbenton@smw16.org

Respectfully

Russ Benton
Organizer/Political Coordinator
Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee
NWRC SMART Local 16

“The Most Productive Workforce in the Industry”

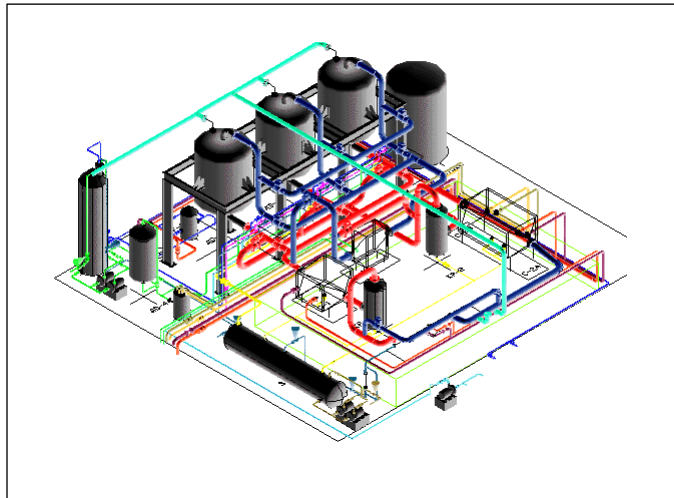
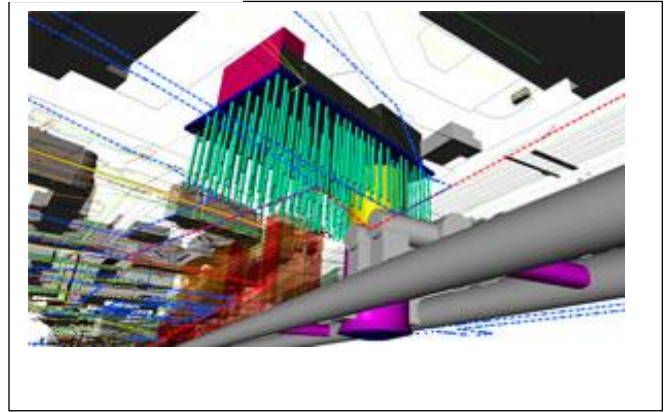
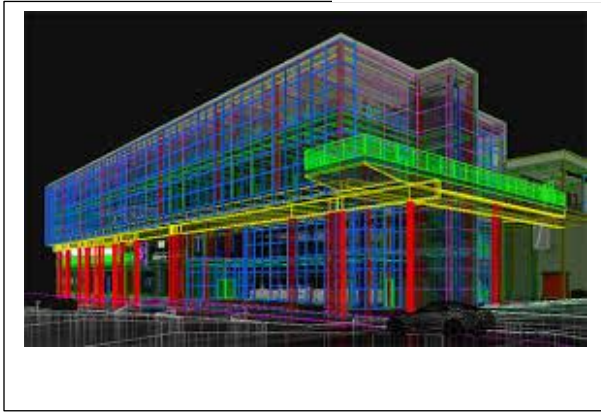


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