



February 3, 2022

Gustavo J. Cruz, Jr.
Chair

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
900 Court Street NE, HR B
Salem, OR 97301

William Myers
Commissioner

Peter Platt
Commissioner

Dear Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee,

Serena Stoudamire

With a shared value of increasing access to funding and reducing disparities experienced by priority populations, the City of Portland supports Senate Bill 1545, which provides funding for training opportunities in the construction, healthcare, and manufacturing industries. We also support the amendment to include persons with disabilities as a priority population, given the disparities in employment rates between persons with disabilities and those without disabilities.

Wesley
Commissioner

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Prosper Portland is the economic and urban development agency for the City of Portland. We focus on the building an equitable economy by carrying out a comprehensive range of economic development programs that support small businesses, improve access to workforce training, and create jobs for Portland residents.

Kimberly Branam
Executive Director

With projected labor shortages in these industries, the development of programs that offer workforce readiness and job placement services will be crucial in meeting future demand. A workforce focus in construction, healthcare, and manufacturing aligns with our objectives around middle-wage job creation and helps to ensure a path towards self-sufficiency for priority populations. Additionally, this programming supports the anticipated needs of the growing regional economy and enables these industries to better meet this demand.

We believe that emphasizing the importance of culturally specific partnerships, providing wraparound services, and developing a community of practice amongst industry-specific employers will lead to successful outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge your support of SB 1545.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Branam, Director
Prosper Portland