



To: Senate Committee on Labor and Business
From: Oregon and Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers, Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 737
Date: January 17th, 2023
RE: SB 119

We, the Oregon and Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers and LIUNA Local 737, collectively representing thousands of workers in construction and the public sector in Oregon, are writing to express our support for SB 119. Oregon's apprenticeship programs are an essential element of maintaining a diverse workforce to meet the needs of the people of our state, and SB 119 will help improve the quality of Oregon's apprenticeship programs.

By studying how apprentices are utilized on public projects in terms of crafts, membership in historically disadvantaged communities, the rate of apprentices who go on to become journeyworkers, and more, unions and Legislators will become better-equipped to understand how to further improve our apprenticeship programs—especially related to public contracting in our state.

Workforce shortages are currently of great concern to the general public. In Oregon, LIUNA's apprenticeship program regularly achieves strong graduation rates and participation from racial/ethnic minorities and women. Our apprenticeship program is a pathway to a middle class life for many of our members. We can continue to strengthen our workforce by ensuring apprenticeships lead to good paying jobs with full benefits.

We believe that SB 119 is a step in the right direction towards ensuring Oregon will lead in supporting its apprenticeship programs and maintaining a skilled and trained workforce.

Respectfully,

Oregon and Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers

Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 737