



# MEDFORD

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

February 21, 2023

Senator Kathleen Taylor  
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Business  
Oregon State Senate  
The Capitol Building  
900 Court Street NE, Room B  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 850

Dear Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee:

The City of Medford opposes Senate Bill 850, which would expand the payment of prevailing wages, implement costly state-mandated apprenticeship programs and require expensive plans for the recruitment and retention of underrepresented individuals in construction projects or projects funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Given the steep inflation we have experienced and the rising costs of labor, contracted work, and materials and service, local governments are truly struggling to deliver critical transportation, recreation, and other infrastructure needs. Senate Bill 850 makes this condition worse and will only make public contracting more expensive. The City of Medford, and all local governments, desperately need our Oregon State Legislature's help to find ways to make the cost of public contracting more affordable, not less so.

We respectfully ask that the committee give strong consideration to the impacts of expanding prevailing wage programs and requiring state-mandated apprenticeship programs will have on local jurisdictions. A Yes vote on SB 850 will further tax our limited resources by increasing our costs and decreasing our ability to deliver vital programs to Medford citizens.

We urge you to vote *No* on Senate Bill 850.

Sincerely,

Randy Sparacino  
City of Medford, Mayor

Brian Sjothun  
City Manager

John Vial  
Public Works Director