



Dr. Gustavo Balderas
Superintendent

Beaverton School District
1260 NW Waterhouse Avenue | Beaverton, Oregon 97006
www.beaverton.k12.or.us

To: Senate Committee on Labor and Business
Re: Opposition to Unfunded Mandates of SB 850
Date: March 6, 2023

Dear Chair Taylor and members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

As superintendent of the third-largest public school district in Oregon, I have a responsibility to safeguard taxpayer funds and complete improvements and investments efficiently and effectively. The Beaverton School District supports fair wages, apprenticeships, and diverse contractor workforce. However, we are concerned about widely applying new requirements that risk increasing costs, increasing difficulties, and delaying or reducing needed public improvement projects.

For this reason I urge you to oppose or significantly revise Senate Bill 850.

In principle, seeking to increase the availability of apprenticeships and the engagement of women, veterans and minority individuals in public contracts is a worthy goal. In practice, setting required minimum levels for such engagement for public contracts raises significant concerns about feasibility and affordability.

This unfunded mandate would be highly likely to significantly increase costs to taxpayers, and certain to increase difficulty for school districts undertaking publicly funded construction projects such as repairing and replacing aging school buildings.

This is an area for local control. If an individual school district or other public agency finds it in their community's interests to impose such requirements or priorities for public contracts, it can already do so under the 2021 Community Benefit Contracts law.

I urge the Legislature to support these worthy intentions as aspirational goals, not as one-size-fits-all mandates for all public projects.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gustavo Balderas', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Gustavo Balderas
Superintendent of Schools
Beaverton School District

District Goal: WE empower all students to achieve post-high school success.

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