



Chair Holvey, Vice-chairs, and House Committee on Business and Labor Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3332. My name is Alicia Chapman and I am the owner and CEO of Willamette Technical Fabricators in Portland. We are a structural steel fabrication company focused on transportation and clean energy infrastructure, for both federal agencies like the US Army Corps of Engineers, and for Oregon agencies like ODOT. Typically, on federal contracts, we are required to Buy American manufactured steel. When we're working on Oregon state-funded projects, even if we don't have the same contractual requirement, that's still our standard operating procedure, but it isn't everyone's. With over half the world's steel coming out of China, that's typically where construction companies and metals manufacturers go for the lowest cost materials if they're permitted, which we think is a mistake. American steel is made with the high environmental, labor, and quality standards we trust, and are willing to pay a premium for. HB 3332 recognizes that, and helps companies like ours who are committed to a triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit to be more competitive. It also means that the approximately 50% of our revenue that goes to buy materials stays closer to home and gets reinvested in strengthening the domestic and local supply chain.

I want to reiterate the other testimony about the positive environmental impact of this bill. It makes no sense for us to set such ambitious decarbonization goals as a state and invest in massive clean energy infrastructure projects, but not require those projects to be Buy American compliant, which means they can be built with coal-powered steel from China, and shipped across the Pacific Ocean, negating most of it not all of the carbon emissions they were supposed to reduce.

HB 3332 is also practical. It allows for waivers to avoid holding up construction or unreasonably burdening taxpayers. It's actually going to save taxpayers a lot of money by lowering the cost needed to maintain and replace state-funded projects over time. Simply put, you get what you pay for.

Finally, this bill will support the continued growth of Oregon metals manufacturing and construction companies like mine who are creating family wage jobs for one of our state's most racially diverse industries, moving us closer to achieving our state equity goals, in addition to economic and climate goals.

Thank you again for your support of this bipartisan bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia Chapman".

Alicia Chapman (she/her)

Owner & Chief Executive Officer
[Willamette Technical Fabricators](#)