



P.O. Box 1472, Fairview, Oregon 97024
5501 NE 223rd Ave Building D, Fairview OR 97024
Tel: 503.674.0980 | Fax: 503.674.0989

OR COB# 213253 | WA# IRONHHL883BF
OR WBE/DBE 10683 | WA WBE W2F0026685

SB850 – Opposition Testimony

Testimony from Carlie Moore, owner of Iron Horse LLC

I am Carlie Moore and I own Iron Horse LLC, which is a COBID certified woman-owned business. I started and have owned Iron Horse since 2017 and I grew from employing only seven people to my current size at thirty-one employees.

Iron Horse performs specialized work that substantially reduces cost to public bodies and homeowners. Our methods are also more environmentally friendly than traditional trenching and open cut repairs, that require additional petroleum-based products such as asphalt for patching. We extend the useful life of currently installed pipe throughout older areas of the city, ensuring that those older buildings (often in traditionally minority neighborhoods) have equitable access to clean drinking water and fully functioning sanitation. We are not frequently in the news, but I like to remind my crew that we are providing some of the most basic and critical infrastructure for society.

SB 850 upsets a decades long compromise in public contracting between union and non-union contractors. Since 1931, with the passage of the federal Davis-Bacon Act, the compromise is that non-union shops are not required to sign onto labor union agreements as long as they pay the same wages and benefits (called the “Prevailing Wage”). Oregon has this law at the state level as well, and BOLI sets all Prevailing Wages for public contracting in the state. All non-union contractors currently work within this system and it creates a level playing field for everyone.

Iron Horse has no advantage in contracting against its competitors by paying lower wages, nor does any other non-union contractor.

So the question is why is this bill being pushed so strongly right now? It is very difficult to find anyone willing to go to work in this economy. Often, they fail drug tests and have no driver’s license. Iron Horse is not only competing with other contractors, it is also competing with public assistance and widespread drug and alcohol abuse. Often, we simply cannot find anyone interested in becoming an apprentice or enough apprentices already in approved programs to meet the requirements of SB 850.

It is clear to me that SB 850 would kill my business. I built and grew this business and I am here today asking you to vote “no” on SB 850 and save my small business. My employees’ families will thank you.