



April 19, 2023

Representative Paul Holvey
Chair, House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Legislature
The Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 594

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Committee on Business & Labor:

The City of Medford opposes Senate Bill 594, which would expand the payment of prevailing wages for the demolition of or removal of hazardous waste from roads, highways, buildings, or structures.

Many local government street, bridge, and building construction projects have elements of demolition as part of the project as well as some level of hazardous waste removal (especially given the broad definitions of hazardous waste). The expansion of prevailing wage programs to include these additional work activities will only make public contracting for local governments more expensive.

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.

We respectfully ask that the committee give strong consideration to the impacts prevailing wage programs have on local jurisdictions. A Yes vote on SB 594 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 594.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brian Sjothun
City of Medford, City Manager

/s/ John Vial
City of Medford, Public Works Director