



Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Elmer, and members of the committee,

The Ironworkers Local 29 represents more than 1,700 journey workers, apprentices, and retirees across Oregon and Southwest Washington. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 594. SB 594 will help to ensure that there are more opportunities for registered apprentices to learn their craft along with removing the existing carve outs from prevailing wage on public projects for demolition and hazardous waste removal.

As you may already be well aware, we are facing a serious shortage of skilled construction workers in Oregon and across the county. Both structural demolition and hazardous waste removal are dangerous and strenuous scopes of work that require a high level of skill to be done correctly. This shortage will only continue to worsen if we do not increase apprentice utilization on projects or allow loopholes in statute that exempt certain scopes of work from prevailing wage requirements.

SB 594 addresses the current issues with Oregon law by specifically including both demolition and hazardous material removal under the definition of public works. For our contractor partners, we believe that closing loopholes in public procurement helps to create a more level playing field when bidding, and allows these businesses to train and retain a skilled workforce. In regards to workforce while most demolition work is done by the Laborers, Ironworkers also do demolition work when the building or part of the building is going to be re-purposed.

It is critical that demolition and hazardous waste removal scopes of work be held to the same high standards that other public works projects are held to. As Oregonians, we hold the value that our tax dollars should be spent promoting high-road jobs that help to grow strong local tax bases and create career opportunities for our community members. We urge you to support SB 594.

Lorne Bulling
Ironworkers Local 29