



International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 16

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Chair: Representative Fahey
Vice Chair: Representative Breese-Iverson
Vice Chair: Representative Kropf
Committee Members on Rules

May 4, 2023

RE: **Yes, on HB-3031**

Clean Air for Children Ensures a Safe, and Healthy, Quality Education. HB 3031

Why the children of Oregon need your support on the Indoor Air Quality legislation (HB 3031) introduced this session.

Nearly 57.5 million students and school employees enter the doors of our nation's schools every day. According to estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, half of these adults and children spend their school days breathing air polluted with toxic chemicals, mold, viruses, bacteria, asbestos, pesticides, smog, and particulates from vehicle pollution, and more. Despite efforts by school employees and their unions to improve indoor environmental quality in classrooms and other school buildings, many of the conditions that cause unhealthy indoor air and environmental quality continue to plague our nation's schools. Poor indoor air and environmental quality results from:

- **Deferred building maintenance**, which leads to dampness, mold, high humidity, and uncontrolled classroom temperatures.
- **Improper ventilation**, which is the result of outdated designs, aging or badly maintained systems, human error, and overcrowded classrooms.
- **Site contamination from toxic chemicals** previously used or dumped at the school site, no environmental testing of sites, or poor leasing practices.
- **Hazardous neighbors**; school locations are located close to known sources of air pollution and contaminated facilities.
- **Toxic construction materials**, which are often banned or no longer used, but still in place in many schools.
- **Unhealthy practices**, such as misuse of harsh cleaning products that can cause asthma and lung irritation.
- **Inadequate air filtration**, implementing the use of merv-13 air filtration standards would help ensure healthy indoor air in all schools.

How we can correct this issue.

HB-3031 will require Indoor Air Quality assessments of K-12 School facilities every five years and the use of carbon dioxide monitors in all K-12 buildings to help confirm that all school ventilation systems are operating correctly, and that staff is notified right away of any deficiency or issue.

It also requires the review of an independent third-party mechanical engineer to ensure the proper corrections are made for the best results.

This bill will require minimum labor standards to ensure that all local community members can earn family wages. It also promotes career and education opportunities through apprenticeship utilization in addition to diversity and inclusion requirements.

This bill will promote healthy and safe learning and working environments for both the students and staff.

This legislation has the ability to do many amazing things, including, lowering the operating cost of K-12 buildings by reducing their energy consumption by as much as 40%, according to a report that was recently released by the US Department of Energy. This legislation would help correct several major hot topic issues.

- **Dramatically reduce energy consumption and the operating cost of K-12 buildings.** This legislation will reduce the energy use in school buildings by as much as 40%, and the operating cost of a school districts, which will assist with balancing their budgets and allocate resources where they are needed to help Oregon meet its carbon neutral goals.
- **Provide a healthy and safe learning environment.** Correcting indoor air quality issues will dramatically reduce the levels of CO2 in K-12 buildings and ensure that all students and faculty will have a safe and healthy learning environment.
- **Increase a student's grades.** Studies show that addressing indoor air quality issues, such as lowering the CO2 levels in classrooms, will increase a student's grades by as much as 17%.
- **Increase a student's attendance.** Studies show that addressing indoor air quality issues will increase a student's attendance by as much as 15%.
- **Reduce the spread of air borne infectious disease.** This will reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other airborne infectious diseases by as much as 80% by maintaining at least three air changes per hour.
- **Ensure family living wages jobs for our community.** This bill will require prevailing wages and a project labor agreement or community benefits agreement to promote higher education, diversity, and inclusion.
- **Promotes continued evaluations of K-12 buildings.** This bill will assist with continued long-term protection for the students and staff by requiring Indoor Air Quality checks every five years.
- **Promotes Federal Funding to help Oregon K-12 schools.** This bill will help leverage federal funding to minimize any budget impacts to school districts and help maximize Oregon federal dollars, so all K-12 schools are included, and no child is left behind. Most federal funds are set to expire in 2024, this is an opportunity we can't afford to miss according to current budget projections.

• For more information please contact:

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