



## YES ON SB 1568

**SB 1568 is a narrow technical fix bill impacting contractors and workers in the electrical industry.** SB 1568 is specific and only impacts the electrical industry due to how the electrical industry has organized itself for over 100 years. We urge you to support NECA and IBEW by voting yes on SB 1568 to clean up the unintended consequence of a 2021 law.

### Background

Until 2021, the Bureau of Labor and Industries used an annual contractor survey to set prevailing wage rates, but in 2021, the Oregon Legislature discontinued the practice of using unscientific wage surveys. Instead, the Legislature moved to a methodology established by a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for a particular district or area. Regions - now called districts - were created by grouping counties.

During implementation, the electrical industry identified a unique unintended consequence as new districts do not align with pre-existing IBEW bargaining jurisdictions that are based on long-standing electrical industry economic and geographic regions (since 1928).

When the areas don't align, contractors must implement a split-scale or dual wage system that does not represent the locally negotiated rate. SB 1568 will fix the incorrect application of wages by allowing the locally negotiated rate to prevail, which was the legislative intent of the bill from 2021.

As an example, the 2021 law mistakenly applies the negotiated wage for metropolitan Portland in all of Yamhill, Polk, and Marion counties, rather than the negotiated rates in those local communities. SB 1568 returns Marion, Polk, and most of Yamhill County, the central and southern Oregon coast to the local rate and properly assigns collective bargained rates negotiated in those communities – the original goal of SB 493 (2021).

