

March 27, 2025

RE: House Bill 2680

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Osborne and Chaichi, and Members of the Committee,

Associated General Contractors – Oregon Columbia Chapter represents a broad cross-section of the commercial construction industry, including open shop and union, rural and metro, highway and building contractors. Most of our members are small, homegrown businesses, doing business throughout Oregon.

I'd like to start by stating that we are in support of opportunities for our members and their employees to sharpen their skills and continue to learn and develop as leaders and individuals within their teams. Our association offers numerous opportunities for members and other associates in the industry to attend classes and attain certifications that add value and show proficiency to their customers or licensing bodies that they are committed to their business or profession.

We believe that the North American Contractor Certification (NACC) and Architectural Glass and Metal Technician (AGMT) national certification fall under this same category of displaying dedication and proficiency both as a company, in the case of the NACC certification and the AGMT certification, in the case of the AGMT certification.

As a business, having a NACC certification displays that as a glazing contractor, you have consistently demonstrated quality and safety excellence and have been verified through an accredited third-party organization with national recognition.

As an individual, having an AGMT certification displays that you are an experienced glazing installer, and you have taken both written and hands-on assessments to certify your skills.

There are a lot of merits and value to having these certifications both as a business and as individuals, which is why large Oregon glazing contractors and a select number of glazing technicians have already taken the steps to get these certifications without the state of Oregon compelling them to do so.

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While we see the virtues of these certifications, it is our belief that passing HB 2680 in its introduced form or with the -2 Amendment would have an overall harmful impact on glazing contractors for the following reasons:

1. Going through the process of getting the NACC certification as a business is a time-intensive process¹

- a. The full certification process is akin to an audit of the operations of the practices of the business. It typically takes 6-to-9 months to go through the full certification process, assuming a company seeking certification already has the majority of their pre-certification documentation in order.
- b. Small-to-mid sized glazing contractors who are able to take on the contract sizes specified in the bill may not have the capacity to take on the administrative burden of getting the NACC certification and will take away their opportunity to participate on public projects. This will have the impact of limiting the pool of available bidders and will either delay projects or drive project costs up, if not both.

2. The scaling and timeline for individuals required to have the AGMT certification, as introduced, is problematic.

- a. The bill with the -2 Amendment requires that a contractor have the NACC certification and have at least one employee working on the project have the AGMT certification by July 1, 2026. We are concerned that if a company does not know about the certification until the bill takes effect, they will have less than 9 months to apply for and get their NACC certification if they want to bid on a qualifying public project. As outlined above, this process can take 9 months to complete even when everything is in order and moving in the right direction.
- b. We are concerned that July 1, 2026 is too soon to require contractors to have the NACC certification. There are currently only 2 contractors in the entire state of Oregon with the NACC certification with one more actively in the process of getting it. If this bill were to go into effect today, this would mean that only 3 contractors in the entire state could do this work, assuming that at least one of their employees

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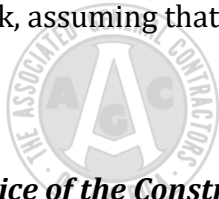
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¹ <https://www.glazingcertification.com/nacc/>



working on the project has the AGMT certification – there are currently 39 individuals in the state of Oregon with the AGMT certification.

- c. Each year following the operative date of July 1, 2026, the requirement of employees working on the project with an AGMT certification goes from one person to 25% in 2027 and to 50% in 2028. As the bill proponents said during the hearing, there is a significant share of industry who are getting ready to retire. The AGMT certification requires 7,500 hours or 5 years of experience before you are eligible to take the assessments² so requiring that 50% of people working on a project within 2 years of a bill becoming operative for a certification that requires 5 years of experience does not allow for the time required for contractors to train their workforce and comply with the legislation or its proposed amendment.

Once again, I want to acknowledge that our association believes that these certifications can bring value to the businesses and individuals who choose to go through the process to get them. However, we do not believe that they should be used as a standard to dictate which businesses or individuals should be able to participate on public work projects. There are already avenues to verify whether an Oregon contractor is licensed, has had any health or safety claims, and is in good standing with their bonding requirements for consumer protection.

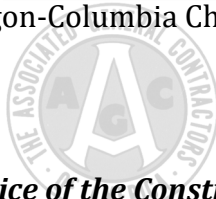
For these reasons, we respectfully request you not pass HB 2680 in its introduced form or with the -2 amendment. We are happy to remain at the table for future conversations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tanner Lloyd
Strategic Affairs Manager – Policy and Public Affairs
Associated General Contractors, Oregon-Columbia Chapter

² <https://www.glazingcertification.com/agmt/>



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