



March 28, 2025

House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE,  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2688**

Chair Grayber and members of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards,

I am writing to express Beaverton's opposition to the proposed amendment to HB 2688, which would apply prevailing wage to bespoke, off-site fabrication, preconstruction, assembly, or construction work performed for public works projects. As written, the amendment would apply to projects that include building, piping, painting and electrical work, which encompasses most projects performed by the city.

The bill does not currently include a definition of "bespoke," which is needed to fully assess the intent and impact of the language. Without a formal definition that is thoroughly vetted and understood to ensure no unintended consequences, many components used on a public works project could be contested as being out of compliance with the provisions of the bill.

Construction projects have experienced severe cost escalations in the last five years after the COVID pandemic and are currently facing unprecedented lead times to receive materials, especially for specialty parts that are only manufactured by a few suppliers. For example, the current lead times for water distribution pumps range between 9 to 12 months, and electrical components can take even longer.

If fewer suppliers offer these components due to increased labor costs, it will not only increase project costs but also extend the time required to complete them. Many public works projects are part of an economic development strategy that brings more housing, commercial, or industrial opportunities to cities. Increased project costs and implementation timelines impact a city's ability to move forward with private investments quickly and efficiently.

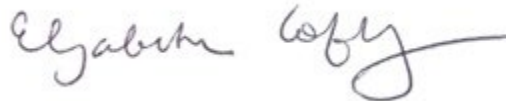
The City of Beaverton is particularly concerned that some offsite manufacturers may decide not to supply to Oregon, leaving us with limited options for replacement that may not be compatible with our current system or be known by the staff responsible for maintenance.

Moreover, this amendment disincentivizes innovation. Beaverton is proud of our commitment to innovation and energy efficiency, as we have demonstrated by installing energy-efficient technology into our water system, but these systems and other innovative solutions are not widely used and are often made to fit the specific needs of the project. This amendment would hinder the development and implementation of such innovative solutions in Oregon.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider this amendment and its potential negative impacts on public works utility projects in Oregon.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Coffey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Elizabeth Coffey

Assistant City Manager