



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### Testimony in Support of SB 460

*Rep. Cyrus Javadi – House District 32*

Chair, Vice-Chair, Members of the Committee—

Along the North Coast, we see a familiar challenge: young people who are eager to enter the trades but can't get their foot in the door. Not because they lack motivation or training, but because well-intentioned laws are putting opportunity just out of reach.

SB 460 solves a practical problem. It makes a small, targeted change to our prevailing wage law so that students in pre-apprenticeship programs—folks who are still learning the ropes—aren't treated like fully qualified workers when it comes to public contracts. That distinction matters, especially in rural communities where contractors are already stretched thin and looking for ways to build the next generation of talent.

On the coast, we have young adults training for real careers in welding, carpentry, and electrical work—careers that build strong families and strong communities. But without hands-on experience, that training stalls. If we want to connect them to work, we can't make it financially impossible for contractors to give them a shot.

This bill removes that barrier—without compromising worker protections, without adding bureaucracy, and without costing the state a dime. It simply lets learning happen where learning should happen: on the job site.

Let's make sure Oregon's workforce pipeline doesn't stop at the classroom door. SB 460 is a good step forward, and I urge your support.

Thank you.