



OREGON STATE BUILDING &
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

April 1, 2025

RE: Opposition to SB 460

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of SB 460. My name is Robert Camarillo, and I am the Executive Secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

We are a state-wide umbrella organization comprised of 31 affiliate member Unions with 6 Regional Local Councils, representing tens of thousands of skilled trades journey level workers and registered apprentices across the state.

Our member Unions are leaders in the nation - establishing gold-standard apprenticeship programs and while it is not required, we still work in partnership with several pre-apprenticeship programs across the state to help prepare individuals for registered apprenticeship.

Construction is one of the most dangerous and physically demanding industries; workers are often exposed to extreme conditions and that is why we will oppose any proposal that lowers worker safety standards and exempts a workforce from prevailing wage requirements on public works projects. Having our public buildings and infrastructure built by untrained and unsafe workers is a danger to our communities and our industry across the country.

Exempting pre-apprentices from prevailing wage laws means any contractor could classify any of their workers as pre-apprentices, creating a pool of workers to be exploited. That is unsafe and is not a good policy.

Prevailing Wage laws are not obstacles to placement in registered pre-apprenticeships or to placement in state registered apprenticeship programs. Pre-apprentices do not normally work on job sites. Pre-apprenticeship programs are designed to provide training and prepare pre-apprentices to enter a registered apprenticeship program. Senate Bill 460 does nothing to ensure placement in a Union apprenticeship program.

There is no shortage of skilled trades workers in Oregon. In fact, [the Oregon Employment Department's latest data](#) shows that over 2,000 construction jobs were lost in Oregon in the month of February.

As we see an increase in the need for our infrastructure to be rebuilt across our state, it has never been more important that we maintain high standards in both prevailing wages and laws - and why the Building Trades Unions strongly disagree with exempting Prevailing Wages from any workforce that is engaged in the building and construction of public works projects. Having safe buildings and infrastructure is vital to our state and communities.

We respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 460. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Executive Secretary: Robert Camarillo

Political & Special Projects Coordinator: Hayley Watson

Affiliated Unions

1. Boilermakers Local 242	17. OR & S. Idaho District Council of Laborers
2. Bricklayers Local 1	18. Floor Coverers Local 1236
3. Cement Masons Local 555	19. Office & Professional Employees Local 11
4. Heat and Frost Insulators Local 36	20. Operating Engineers Local 701
5. Drywall Finishers Local 101	21. Painters & Drywall Finishers Local 10
6. IBEW Local 48	22. Painters District Council No. 5
7. IBEW Local 112	23. Plasterers Local 82
8. IBEW Local 280	24. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 290
9. IBEW Local 659	25. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 598
10. IBEW Local 932	26. Roofers Local 49
11. Elevator Constructors Local 23	27. Sheet Metal Workers Local 16
12. Glaziers Local 740	28. Sheet Metal Workers Local 55
13. Ironworkers Local 29	29. Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 669
14. Ironworkers Shop Local 516	30. Teamsters Local 162
15. Ironworkers District Council	31. Joint Council of Teamsters No. 37
16. Laborers Local 737	

Regional Councils:

- Central Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council
- Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council
- Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Council
- Pendleton Building and Construction Trades Council
- Salem Building and Construction Trades Council
- Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council