



# Clatsop County

## Board of Commissioners

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April 2, 2025

Senate Committee on Labor and Business  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

### **RE: Support Senate Bill 460 – Strengthening Oregon’s Workforce Pipeline**

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

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners strongly supports Senate Bill 460 and urges its passage to remove barriers that prevent pre-apprentices from gaining the hands-on training they need to enter high-demand careers.

In Clatsop County, we face a pressing challenge: connecting our motivated young residents with meaningful career opportunities in the skilled trades. Pre-apprenticeship programs have proven instrumental in preparing individuals for apprenticeships by providing essential training and hands-on experience. However, the current application of prevailing wage laws to these participants creates a significant barrier. Many local contractors, especially in rural communities like ours, find it financially prohibitive to engage pre-apprentices due to the increased labor costs mandated by prevailing wage requirements.

By amending ORS 279C.810 to exempt pre-apprenticeship participants from prevailing wage laws, SB 460 will:

- Increase the number of training opportunities available for individuals pursuing careers in the trades.
- Strengthen collaborations between educational institutions, local employers, and labor organizations to cultivate a skilled workforce.
- Help address the skilled labor shortage in our region by facilitating a seamless transition from training to gainful employment.

This legislative change aligns with Oregon's broader workforce development objectives and supports the economic vitality of communities like Clatsop County. By removing unnecessary obstacles, we can empower our residents to build sustainable careers while simultaneously supporting the growth and competitiveness of our local industries.

**For these reasons, we strongly urge your YES vote on SB 460 to ensure that the next generation of Oregon’s skilled workforce has access to the training and experience needed for long-term success.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kujala". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Kujala, Board Chair  
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners