

Submitter: Ryan Nolan
On Behalf Of: City of Rogue River
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1566

Over time, costs have risen significantly—construction expenses, labor, and wages have all increased—while purchasing power has steadily declined. Yet the statutory thresholds that trigger prevailing wage requirements for public improvement projects have not kept pace with these economic realities. As a result, communities across Oregon face unnecessary barriers to completing essential infrastructure projects that protect existing homes, support local economic development, and lay the groundwork for new housing.

House Bill 1566 offers a thoughtful, practical solution. It acknowledges that Oregon's communities are diverse and that a one-size-fits-all threshold no longer serves the needs of our state. By updating and regionalizing prevailing wage triggers, HB 1566 modernizes outdated standards and gives cities, counties, and special districts the flexibility they need to keep projects moving without sacrificing worker protections or project quality.

This bill is about enabling progress—ensuring that local governments can responsibly improve roads, utilities, public facilities, and the infrastructure that makes housing development possible. It supports smarter investment, reduces unnecessary cost burdens, and helps communities move forward at a time when Oregon needs housing and infrastructure solutions more than ever.

Please support House Bill 1566.