



Date: February 25, 2026  
To: Senate Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature

**Subject: Support Testimony for Senate Bill 1501**

Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Todd Mustard, and I am writing to you on behalf of the Oregon Chapters of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). We represent more than 150 electrical contractors statewide who perform between 8 and 10 million hours of electrical work annually. That work represents thousands of highly trained, professionally licensed Oregonians earning family-wage jobs with strong benefits.

Most people are focused on the sports and entertainment aspect of Senate Bill 1501 and that's important to our communities, our state and our region. But there are two other major aspects to consider: Oregon's workforce and tax base.

Our contractors and skilled electricians are the workforce that ensures electrical projects are completed safely, efficiently, and reliably. To maintain that workforce "infrastructure," we need jobs. Jobs provide apprenticeship opportunities. They provide the on-the-job training hours required to advance skills. They create pathways into lifelong careers. Without consistent work opportunities, that pipeline weakens. And when our "infrastructure" of highly skilled electricians is weakened because there aren't projects or jobs for our workers, we can't provide the services to our communities because we have lost our highest skilled workers and are not training for the future.

We understand there are technical arguments both for and against this legislation. Our message to you today is simple: this bill creates real career opportunities for Oregonians – all Oregonians. This is not just a Portland area benefit. Workers come to us from all around the region. This is for high school graduates exploring their next step. For community college students. For veterans returning home from military service. For individuals seeking a career change. SB 1501 and the projects it will support helps ensure we can offer them access to high-demand, high-skill careers with excellent wages, strong benefits, and meaningful work building and maintaining the electrical systems that power our schools, hospitals, and businesses.

I want to emphasize the urgency: we have not opened our training center to new applicants for over a year because there simply have not been enough projects available for graduates. That is not the future we want for Oregon's workforce.

We stand ready to train the next generation. We stand ready to create opportunity. But we need projects. We need jobs. As you consider this bill, I encourage you to think about the young person looking for direction, the veteran seeking a new start, or the neighbor ready to build a better future. These are careers that cannot be outsourced. They cannot be automated. They will remain in demand long into the future.

Help us help Oregonians access stable, family-wage careers. We respectfully urge your support for SB 1501.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd R. Mustard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T' and 'M'.

Todd Mustard, Executive Manager,  
Oregon-Columbia Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association