

February 26, 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 Jimbo Anderson and I am writing on behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 701 to express our support for Senate Bill 1501 and the opportunities it presents for Oregon's workforce and economy.

While much of the public discussion around SB 1501 has centered on sports and entertainment, we believe it is equally important to consider two additional and significant impacts: the strength of Oregon's workforce and the long-term stability of our state's tax base.

Our skilled operating engineers are part of the workforce infrastructure that ensures major projects are completed safely, efficiently, and reliably. Maintaining that infrastructure of skilled workers requires consistent work opportunities. Jobs are not just short-term paychecks — they are the foundation of apprenticeship programs, the source of on-the-job training hours required to advance skills, and the pathway into lifelong, family-wage careers.

Without a steady pipeline of projects, that workforce infrastructure weakens. When there are not enough jobs to sustain and train the next generation, we risk losing our most experienced, highly skilled workers to other opportunities. At the same time, we fall behind in preparing new workers to meet future demand.

Simply put, SB 1501 creates real career opportunities for Oregonians — across the entire state. Our members come from communities large and small, urban and rural. This is not limited to one region; it supports working families throughout Oregon.

These projects will open doors for high school graduates considering their next step, for community college students pursuing skilled trades, for veterans returning home and seeking meaningful civilian careers, and for people looking to transition into stable, high-demand fields. They provide access to careers that offer excellent wages, strong benefits, and the dignity of building and maintaining the infrastructure that supports our communities.

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We respectfully urge your support for SB 1501 as a measure that invests not only in facilities and development, but in Oregon's people and long-term economic health. We appreciate your consideration and your continued commitment to policies that promote opportunity, stability, and prosperity for working families.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

James Anderson
Business Manager & Financial Secretary
International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 701