



**International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers  
NWRC of SMART, Local 16**

2379 N.E. 178th AVE.  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97230-5957  
PHONE: (503) 254-0123 • FAX: (503) 254-0157

February 26, 2026

**Re: Support for SB 1501**

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Strickland, and I am Special Projects Counsel for, and a proud member of, NWRC of SMART, Local 16, representing approximately 2,000 sheet metal workers and registered apprentices across Oregon and Southwest Washinton. Our members work on projects in both urban and rural areas across our state and are a critical part of the skilled local workforce that builds and maintains our state.

I write to you now to urge your support for SB 1501 to champion family-sustaining jobs in the skilled trades as well as operations and maintenance. This \$600 million renovation project is about more than basketball; it's about ensuring our statewide construction workforce is shored up for years to come. That opportunity is further magnified and leveraged where a developer does the right thing, and invests in our local workforce through the use of a project labor agreement and a labor harmony agreement, covering both the construction and the operations and maintenance phases of the project to maximize the benefit to the community.

SB 1501 is important to our union membership because it represents an opportunity for responsible economic development through workforce development. A project of this scale would allow us to increase enrollment in state-registered apprenticeship programs. These programs rely on continued job development in order to move apprentices through the program and into Oregon's skilled trades workforce.

When this project breaks ground in 2027, skilled trades workers will come from all over Oregon to work on this once-in-a-generation job site, building skills to last them a lifetime in a rewarding career in the construction trades. From apprentices who earn while they learn to journey workers training the next generation, our workforce stands ready to meet this moment, with full-family healthcare and retirement benefits to support them, their families, and their communities.

Please pass SB 1501 to take the first step toward making this project a reality. This is a vital investment in job creation, workforce development, working families, and the entire Oregon economy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Strickland", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Scott Strickland  
Special Projects Counsel  
NWRC of SMART, Local 16

***"The Most Productive Workforce in the Industry"***