



Oregon State
Building and Construction Trades Council
AFL-CIO



VIA EMAIL

Joint Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 5024

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and and Committee Members:

For the record, my name is Robert Camarillo. I am the Executive Secretary of the Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council, an umbrella organization representing over forty thousand Union construction workers throughout Oregon, in 27 member local unions.

I would like to thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak today on behalf of the Labor Education and Research Center at the University of Oregon.

Our council has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with LERC. We regard LERC as a valued partner who shares our commitments to professionalism, quality, craftsmanship, and safety as our members build the infrastructure necessary for the well-being of our communities. LERC also shares our commitment to strong labor standards that protect workers, pay good wages and benefits, and uplift our communities.

For many years both our members and unrepresented workers have relied on LERC's excellent services. LERC has developed curriculum for our apprenticeship programs that introduces young workers to the history and heritage of the union movement and supports their career development.

Many of our local unions send members to LERC workshops and trainings where they can develop their representational and leadership skills. In recent years LERC has created a well-regarded regional institute that brings together high-level labor and community leaders from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia for candid discussion about leadership challenges and the development of innovative strategies to address these challenges.

Several leaders in our council have attended this impressive program, and we anticipate that more of our leaders will participate in the next cohort beginning this summer.

LERC has conducted valuable research on apprenticeship that our member unions have used to assess the effectiveness of their programs and develop policies that address areas needing revision or

improvement. Along with other partners, LERC continues to help us develop outreach strategies to make the building trades more inclusive and welcoming toward women and people of color.

More recently, we are engaging LERC to produce research that will help us assess the impact of prevailing wage standards, community benefits agreements, and project labor agreements as tools that benefit both workers and their communities.

Throughout my association with LERC, which dates back to my days as an organizer with the Iron Workers Union, I have appreciated the skill and commitment of its faculty, the encouragement and support they have given to our emerging leaders, and the quality of the research they have conducted on our behalf. Simply put, LERC is an indispensable resource for the workers and unions that I represent, offering a menu of services we cannot obtain elsewhere. Truly, LERC is “the gift that keeps on giving” and represents an excellent public investment that deserves continuing support from the legislature.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Camarillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert Camarillo
Executive Secretary