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TO: Chair Taylor  
Vice-Chair Knopp  
Members of the Senate Workforce Committee

FR: Lindsey Franklin, Legislative Staff, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Support for HB 2408-A

My name is Lindsey Franklin, representing the over 300,000 working Oregonians of the Oregon AFL-CIO. We consider ourselves a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2408-A.

HB 2408-A addresses an issue of pay equity in the construction industry. In Oregon, Economic Enterprise Zones (E-Zones) are areas in which local government has chosen to offer tax breaks in order to incentivize businesses to open in their geographic area. Unsurprisingly, the purpose of the program is to “stimulate and protect economic success” for our state.

However, we need to ensure that the economic success doesn’t just head straight to the top and part of that includes the wages and benefits for our construction workers. These are the men and women that are building our state and they deserve the benefits of the standards set in-state by contractor surveys.

This bill would require those companies receiving tax breaks in E-Zones on projects \$20 million dollars or more in scope, to pay prevailing wage to the construction workers on that project. If a private sector business is reaching out their hand for assistance from public dollars, Oregon’s workers need to benefit from that with a prevailing wage. This will ensure that our public funds are going to good paying jobs and will also help Oregon’s workers and businesses stay competitive with out-of-state interests.

In closing, enterprise zone programs and incentives need to work for all Oregonians, including the workers in construction. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2408-A and I strongly urge your Aye vote.