

Dear Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee,

I retired 2½ years ago as the Executive Secretary of the Oregon State Building Trades Council. You may know that I am now doing some contract lobbying; I am writing this letter as a private citizen, and NOT on behalf of any clients I am paid to represent.

I wish to go on record in support of HB 2408-A, which would require payment of Prevailing Wages to construction workers on projects of \$20 million and above in economic enterprise zones. I believe the bill as it is, with a \$20 million threshold will keep development on track, and also benefit the local economy by putting more money into the pockets of workers. The bill will incentivize what I believe is one of the important goals for economic enterprise zones- the use of a skilled localized workforce and work for Oregon based contractors.

It is my understanding that the facts show that the \$20 million threshold will exclude the majority of projects, and capture the large ones. I really believe the Building Trades has been very fair with this number to try and satisfy the concerns of local governments.

I had the honor of serving three terms as a volunteer Commissioner for the Portland Development Commission, and have a great appreciation for the goals and successes of economic enterprise zones. I would not be supportive of this bill if I had any concerns that it would harm economic development and economic enterprise zones.

On many projects around the state, over the past several years, developers , corporations, and/or general contractors have started to bring more out of state contractors that in turn bring in workers from out of state- Idaho, Utah, Texas, Kentucky, Indiana, South Carolina, and Florida to name a few. This spites the intent of economic enterprise zones- we know the tax breaks these owners receive are intended to incent the use of local contractors and workers.

I respectfully urge you to vote for HB 2408 with a threshold of \$20 million. This will help insure that Oregonians benefit from economic enterprise zones, and I believe will do no harm to economic development or economic enterprise zones. In fact I would argue that the bill would have the upside of insuring employment of local workers who spend their dollars in local main street businesses, instead of employing out of state workers who send their dollars back home.

Thanks in advance for your consideration, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



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