



Oregon State  
Building and Construction Trades Council  
AFL-CIO



June 12, 2019

Via Email

Chair Paul Holvey  
Vice-Chair Jennifer Williamson  
Vice-Chair Carl Wilson  
House Committee on Rules

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

I am with the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, an umbrella organization representing 27 member local unions; I am the Executive Secretary of the organization. I would like to thank you for considering my testimony in support of SB 455.

Though I am very pleased with the progress we've made to advance inclusion and equality in the building and construction trades, I believe more can be done in the industry. This bill is not intended to discredit any of the good work that has been done by our industry and its partners, but rather to encourage it statewide. This Bill would help strengthen communities by creating career opportunities and pathways into apprenticeship for the next generation, and a gateway particularly for women and residents of color. This is why this Bill is so important to the construction trades industry.

This Bill would simulate what our neighboring states are already doing with utilization requirements on public projects. Contractor prequalification requirements on community colleges and public university projects to employ apprentice labor, women, and people of color on construction projects valued at \$8 million or greater should not be viewed as a burden to them or the institutions. This would ensure that all contractors hire workers enrolled in an apprenticeship program approved or recognized by the State of Oregon, and that women and people of color are shown an equal pathway to a career in the trades.

We regard the contractor community as a valued partner who shares our commitments to professionalism and quality craftsmanship, and safety as our members build the infrastructure necessary for the well-being of our communities. Contractors share our commitment to strong labor and wage standards that protect workers and uplift our communities.

Building Trades Apprenticeship programs are privately funded and spend over \$1.5 billion annually on training. All of our registered apprenticeship programs in Oregon are administered by the state.

I urge you to please vote "YES" on SB 455.

Respectfully,

Robert Camarillo  
Executive Secretary