



OREGON STATE BUILDING &
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

February 11, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Chair Karin Power
Vice Chair Daniel Bonham
Vice Chair Janeen Sollman
House Committee on Energy & Environment

RE: OBTC Comments on House Bill 4105

Chair Power, Vice Chair Bonham, Vice Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on HB 4105, which would impact the construction and development of oil and gas facilities in Oregon.

The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council is an umbrella organization representing 30 affiliated local trades unions. These men and women are an intricate part of Oregon's workforce, our region's economy, and future economic prosperity.

The State of Oregon has statutory directions to reduce emissions, and action needs to be taken to meet these emission reduction goals. This is why the Oregon State Building & Construction Trades Council has worked with leaders in both parties to help craft a fair and consistent cap and trade program that includes strong labor standards. These labor standards will help to offset some job dislocation as certain industries reshuffle and adapt.

We are concerned about language in HB 4105 that will prohibit state agencies from authorizing permits for the construction of new infrastructure for exploration, development or production of oil or gas. Large public projects offer union construction trades long-term job projects that ensure workers have family wages, full family health care and retirement security. Additionally, trade unions train apprentices without any public money. This is only possible if there is work in the state. If we ban entire industries, we put the future of skilled trades at risk.

As written, this legislation could potentially have catastrophic consequences for the skilled trades industry. It would seriously jeopardize our ability to train apprentices and keep skilled workers in Oregon. We ask that the Committee take a deeper dive into the unintended or intended consequences of the current draft of HB 4105, and work with stakeholders to address concerns in the interim.

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully,

Robert Camarillo
Executive Secretary

