



February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **RE: Support for Construction Board Budget and Fees**

### **SB 5509**

#### **Members of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on General Government:**

The Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of Oregon (PMCA) and the Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association of Oregon & SW Washington (SMACNA) strongly urge your support of the budget for the Construction Contractors Board (CCB) and the sunset at the end of this biennium of the temporary fee reduction.

The CCB is an important part of Oregon's construction industry – providing consumer protection, industry education and enforcement of Oregon's laws. Our industry members work with CCB on critical issues such as safely and successfully working through the current Covid emergency.

Our industry was aware that the fee reduction was a temporary move when it was adopted and that it had a sunset. The goal of that reduction was to reduce CCB's reserves which were perceived to large at the time. We questioned that decision then as over the decades we see construction, and thus the fees it pays, rise and fall while at the same time our needing to have consistent, innovative, and effective services provided by CCB is important. Strong reserves are critical to that and there have been times in the past when CCB did not have them.

As you know – keeping construction happening, and our workforce employed, has been one of Oregon's economic success stories during the Covid emergency – and has significantly helped the state budget's bottom line. There are enormous cooperative efforts between industry and many government entities involved with oversight of it, including leadership by CCB, to make that happen. Keeping CCB sound will be important to both keeping the public safe from unscrupulous and unlicensed work and to our licensed contractors and workforce who support safety and quality work.

We hope you will join our contractors in supporting the CCB budget and the sunset of the temporary fee reduction.

Sincerely,

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