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IBEW 89
IBEW 112
IBEW 125
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**Oregon State Association
of Electrical Workers**

February 25th, 2021

RE: Opposition to Undercutting Licensed Trades

SB 17

Members of the Senate Labor & Business Committee:

The UA Local 290 Plumbers & Steamfitters, Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of Oregon (PMCA) and the Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers (OSAEW) are strongly opposed to Senate Bill 17.

We represent licensed electricians, plumbers/steamfitters, and Plumbing Contractors in Oregon. Our work is largely governed by the Oregon Building Codes Division, and the Licensing Boards that we participate in to set standards throughout the state. Oregon enjoys a high quality of work, stronger builder codes than most states, and high standards for our licensed industries. SB 17 would undercut that system and the benefits therein.

Currently, if other states would like reciprocity with Oregon for licensed work for our industry, there is a negotiation process to ensure that standards for licensing are acceptable for both states. We have reciprocity agreements with several states, and have gone through the appropriate channels, scrutiny, and checks for standards and safety.

A blanket "provisional license" standard, as would be created in Senate Bill 17, not only circumvents these processes, but undercuts all existing reciprocity agreements we have already negotiated by creating a revolving-backdoor. This will allow for under skilled workers to enter jobs that are heavily safety related for 2 years without getting appropriate training and licensing. Without full Oregon licensure we are further concerned about the liability impacts this can have should an accident or improper construction occur. Additionally, the certification of 'intent to get a full license' seems unverifiable and reinforces the potential abuse of a loophole.

While we appreciate the need for skilled workforce in rural areas, we work extensively on workforce development in our industry, and strive to ensure the needs of communities in Oregon, and the market are met. This involves appropriate industry training, adhering to state codes and construction standards, and investing in our Oregon workers and training.

Thank you, and we urge a different approach to that laid out in Senate Bill 17.

Sincerely,

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