



International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 16

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Chair Chuck Riley
Vice Chair Bill Hansel
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business

February 25, 2021

RE: No on Senate Bill 17

The 2,300 voting members of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Union Local 16 are strongly opposed to Senate Bill 17. We represent EPA Licensed and Limited Energy Licensed Service Technicians.

Many of the Fire and Life Safety systems that protect the occupants in both public and private buildings such as Fire and Smoke Control Dampers, are installed by the members of SMART Local 16. These systems protect our most vulnerable population in places like Schools, Hospitals and Retirement Homes and are controlled by electrical networks installed by Licensed Electricians. These systems are the last line of defense when a tragic event occurs such as a fire or earthquake. Any failure of one of these systems due to the improper installation from an unqualified, unlicensed worker will cause serious injuries and fatalities.

There is no reasonable argument that can justify placing the citizens of Oregon lives and personal safety at risk. We have an Oregon Building Codes Division and Licensing Boards for a reason, to save lives and protect the public safety. Senate Bill 17 will weaken the requirements put in place by the State of Oregon. This blanket provisional license standard created by SB 17 will undermine all the reciprocity agreements the State of Oregon has already negotiated by creating an unnecessary and dangerous loophole that is both unverifiable and creates potential for abuse.

As a member of a Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, I understand the need for a qualified workforce in rural areas. Investing in Career Pathways and Apprenticeship Programs and expanding industry training is the correct path towards meeting the needs of an ever-growing industry.

Thank you, members of the committee, we implore you to find an acceptable and safe solution.

If I can answer questions or provide information, please feel free to contact me. rbenton@smw16.org

Respectfully

Russ Benton
Organizer/Political Coordinator
Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee
NWRC SMART Local 16

“The Most Productive Workforce in the Industry”