

June 16, 2023

RE: HB 3031A

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice Chairs Knopp and Members of the Committee:

Associated General Contractors – Oregon Columbia Chapter represents a broad cross-section of the commercial construction industry, including open shop and union, rural and metro, highway and building contractors.

First, we'd like to recognize, and share our appreciation for, the progress that has been made on this bill. In particular, we appreciate that the project labor agreements are left up to the contractor to determine whether this is the right choice for their business. This will help ensure competition on the projects, while allowing contractors to choose a PLA if they prefer.

However, we still have concerns about labor standard requirements in the bill, in Section 5. In particular, we are opposed to the training agent requirement. AGC strongly supports apprenticeship and workforce development, but a requirement like the one in Section 5(1)(a) has the impact of cutting out smaller, rural contractors from being able to compete on these projects. For those in more rural areas, it is difficult to become training agents. By requiring contractors to be training agents for these contracts, it will be difficult (if not impossible) for the contractors in rural areas to bid on projects in their own backyards. We hope you will consider removing the training agent requirement, to ensure that contractors throughout the state can bid on projects in their communities.

Thank you for your time, and please reach out with any questions.

Best Regards,

Kirsten Adams
Director and Counsel – Policy and Public Affairs

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