



SB 850 Testimony in opposition on behalf of AOC- Association of Oregon Counties

Senate Committee on Labor and Business

February 23, 2023

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, Vice Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

My name is Anna Braun with Dalton Advocacy on testifying on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties. **AOC strongly opposes SB 850.**

SB 850 adds additional requirements for public improvement projects. Projects that cost one million and use \$750,000 of ARPA funds must enter into project labor agreements. Those agreements require payment at the prevailing wage rate and use of apprenticeships for 15 percent of the work. There are also expanded outreach requirements for recruitment and retention of workers. In addition, the bill removes the exemption for rural areas.

Counties are particularly concerned about this requirement because of the huge need for county projects which runs directly counter to the requirements of this bill. Counties provide many services. Any project that costs more than a million dollars will trigger the enhanced prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements. Currently, the trigger amount is ten million. In addition, the bill adds requirements if ARPA funds are used. As a result, the costs for these projects will increase.

Well paid laborers and apprenticeships are valuable goals but unfortunately the requirements of this bill will result in fewer projects and fewer services provided by counties. This concern is particularly heightened right now when counties are being asked to provide more and more critical services to Oregonians.

Thank you.

Anna Braun

On behalf of AOC Governance, Revenue and Veterans subcommittee

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