



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

Senate Committee on Labor and Business

March 7, 2023 CORRECTED TESTIMONY

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

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

Please disregard the testimony I submitted on February 23 because it contained an error.

SB 850 adds additional requirements for public improvement projects. **If a project is over \$1 million with public funds of \$750,000 (or ARPA funds) then the project must have a project labor agreement.** 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 and, in addition, the bill removes the exemption for rural areas.

These requirements are impossible to meet in some areas of our state. In Deschutes County, for example, there are no union shops and there are no apprenticeship programs. The result of this bill will be to eliminate local bidders for projects.

Well paid laborers and apprenticeships are valuable goals but unfortunately the requirements of this bill will increase costs to counties and result in fewer projects 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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