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RE: Opposition of SB 850 Written Testimony

My name is Kendall Miller and I am the owner of a non-union, Heavy Civil Excavation company. We are a certified Woman Owned Firm, I am a fourth-generation contractor, and the Vice President of the Northwest Utility Contractors Association (NWUCA.) I also sit on the Heavy Equipment Operators Open Shop JATC Committee. Interlaken, Inc has been in business since 2004 as an open-shop contractor. Approximately 80% of our work is made up of public works projects. Interlaken is a registered training agent for the Laborers and Heavy Equipment Operators JATC, successfully wins public works projects and has demonstrated how we achieve workforce goals within this existing model for open shop contracting. We employ between 25-30 employees annually and pride ourselves on providing great, family wage jobs to our employees. We treat our employees like family and it is important for our business to have the choice when it comes to how we operate. In order to stay competitive and nimble in this industry we believe our choice to remain an open-shop contractor, no matter the project, allows our business to stay focused on our goal of providing great jobs to our team with a top-notch product delivered to the client.

Interlaken, Inc. is a thriving, growing, woman owned business in Oregon and we respectfully urge a “NO” vote to SB 850.

SB 850 will negatively effect my business by dictating how we operate, how we recruit and retain our workforce, how we administer and provide benefits and essentially our ability to remain flexible in the current construction climate. The labor shortage we are currently experiencing is outstanding and will be exacerbated by the passage of SB 850. Union Halls will not be able to sufficiently provide the workforce needed to adequately staff local contractors. Furthermore, SB 850 is another barrier to entry for small, minority and woman owned firms to compete on public works projects. It will reduce the pool of qualified firms available to bid on public infrastructure projects by adding another layer of bureaucracy to an already exhausting list of requirements in place for public work projects. Small businesses, which are the heart of our local community, don't need additional layers of requirements that pull on our already thin resources.

Respectfully,

Kendall Miller
President
Interlaken, Inc.