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

Senate Committee on Labor and Business

March 7, 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 Braun Law LLC testifying on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties. **AOC strongly opposes SB 850. Below is some additional testimony from Clatsop County:**

The requirement for project labor agreements, would be a legal and paper work burden that would be extensive. The County would most likely be required to have labor agreements with all the general contracts and all subcontracts. The apprenticeship requirements are also already in the BOLI rules for labor and contractors in general used apprentice when possible as they are lower cost. Labor agreements would likely require that all contractors and subcontractors be Union based contractors. There are many contractors we use that are not union, and may only perform work for a few days on a project and the percentage of Union contractors, in rural areas like Clatsop County are very few union contractors.

Prevailing Wage is already required for all projects that are over $50,000, so this is already happening on a project that uses $750,000 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

In rural areas we already have issues getting contractors to bid especially on larger projects. This would just add unneeded complexity and would prevent many local contractors from bidding in County Projects.

In seems like these rules are trying to supersede already established law and statutes for contacting and labor. If these are federal rules because its federal money then there is a another set of rules, like David Bacon rules for labor rates.

Monica Steele
Assistant County Manager
Clatsop County

Submitted by Anna Braun

On behalf of AOC Governance, Revenue and Veterans subcommittee