



March 7, 2023

Hon. Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Hon. Senator Daniel Bonham, Co-Chair
Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 850.

The Port of Portland operates Portland International Airport (PDX), general aviation facilities in Hillsboro and Troutdale, three operating marine terminals and five business parks spanning 10,000 acres of employment land. The bulk of the Port's construction program is at PDX, as any recent visitor can easily attest to.

Because of our high volume of construction projects, diverse funding sources and related constraints – the Port makes labor agreement determinations for large scale construction projects on a case-by-case basis. We initiate review for projects costing \$35 million or more, a threshold modeled by those defined in Executive Order 14063. Ultimately, determinations for suitability for a labor agreement, sometimes called a Project Labor Agreement, are made based on whether having one helps or hinders the project's ability to come in on time and on budget, while maximizing small business participation and workforce goals.

Senate Bill 850 presents areas of alignment and areas of concern alike, many of which have been noted by testimony submitted to-date. Of primary importance to the Port is setting standards in a way that maximizes quality jobs, while ensuring a level playing field for small businesses and minority-owned firms, many of whom don't operate at a scale that allows them to afford the types of benefits required by the legislation.

We would encourage the committee to seek feedback from the many diverse stakeholders involved in carrying out public projects to ensure a complete understanding of how Senate Bill 850 would impact the many goals public agencies hold dear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kendall Foose".

Kendall Foose, CPPB, NIGP-CPP
Manager of Equity in Contracts and Procurement

