



## TESTIMONY HB 3152

Monday, March 13, 2023

Chair Marsh, Co-Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the Committee

For the record, my name is Teri Watson, and I am the Political and Special Projects Coordinator the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Thank you for allowing me to provide you testimony on behalf of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. The Building and Construction Trades Council is a statewide umbrella organization with six regional Councils across the State of Oregon and made up of 31-member Unions, representing tens of thousands of skilled trades workers across and around Oregon.

I am honored to be here today to speak on behalf of the tens of thousands of skilled trades workers represented in Oregon.

One of the Council's major roles is to bring the needs of unions from building-related trades together to protect the welfare of workers and educate each another. The State Council provides our members' voices here in state legislature, advocating for: family-sustaining wages and hours, safe working conditions; funding for major infrastructure projects; local jobs in urban and rural areas, and diversifying the workforce through our privately funded, outstanding, registered apprenticeship programs.

As I'm sure you are aware, we look at all legislative proposals through a multi-craft lens to support all our members. The State Council supports ideas of a wide variety of tradespeople and oppose any that are harmful to our members and our industry.

Collectively, energy infrastructure accounts for nearly 50% of all hours worked by our members across the country and remains one of our strongest fields for growth.

I am here to testify in **OPPOSITION** to HB 3152.

We too, are concerned with the challenges of climate change, and we strongly support the energy revolution and creative ideas.

Whether it is working on windfarms or solar facilities to help deliver electricity to our homes, building pipelines carrying natural gas to market, developing the rapidly expanding renewable industry, or working towards securing the future for nuclear facilities, our members are heavily invested in working towards securing our states energy future, but this policy is not the way.

One of our biggest concerns is that our industry did not participate in the creation of the Bill. This idea was created with zero input from certain key industry stakeholders. We believe that speaking for the affiliate member unions and Council members, that we would add value to these conversations and policy development. Our members are on the ground every day and they have significant knowledge when it comes to these subjects.

Again, some of the concerns are the same as the ones that have been stated:

- *The bill threatens quality career opportunities, especially as it relates to new apprentices joining the industry.*
- *This bill would prohibit the growth of jobs by restricting the ability to upgrade energy infrastructure to be more efficient.*
- *The bill changes the mission of the Oregon PUC from an economic regulator to an environmental regulator.*
- *The bill changes the PUC incentive and subsidies in section (2) (a) and (b) to prohibit the purchase or installation of natural gas appliances or devices used by residential utility customers, and the line extension allowances for new natural gas line extensions in residential buildings. These changes to the law will directly affect our members by removing the incentives and subsidies for natural gas options.*

Therefore, we are deeply concerned with the effects this policy will have on our members' careers and lives. I ask you to please vote **No** on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

**The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council is comprised of the following trades and regional councils throughout the state:**

1. Boilermakers Local 242
2. Bricklayers Local 1
3. Cement Masons Local 555
4. Heat and Frost Insulators Local 36
5. Drywall Finishers Local 101
6. IBEW Local 48
7. IBEW Local 112
8. IBEW Local 280
9. IBEW Local 659
10. IBEW Local 932
11. Elevator Constructors Local 23
12. Glaziers Local 740
13. Ironworkers Local 29
14. Ironworkers Shop Local 516
15. Ironworkers District Council
16. Laborers Local 737
17. OR & S. Idaho District Council of Laborers
18. Floor Coverers Local 1236
19. Office & Professional Employees Local 11
20. Operating Engineers Local 701
21. Painters & Drywall Finishers Local 10
22. Painters District Council No. 5
23. Plasterers Local 82
24. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 290
25. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 598
26. Roofers Local 49
27. Sheet Metal Workers Local 16
28. Sheet Metal Workers Local 55
29. Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 669
30. Teamsters Local 162
31. Joint Council of Teamsters No. 37

**Six Regional Building and Construction Trades Councils:**

1. Central Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council
2. Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council
3. Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Council
4. Pendleton Building and Construction Trades Council
5. Salem Building and Construction Trades Council
6. Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council