







Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers

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## **RE: Support House Bill 5010**

DCBS/BCD Budgets

TO: The Members of the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

The Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association (PMCA), UA Local 290 Plumbers & Steamfitters (UA 290), Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association of Oregon & SW Washington (SMACNA), and the Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers (OSAEW) strongly urge your support for House Bill 5010 – in particular the budgets of the Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD) within the budget for the Department of Consumer and Business Service.

We collectively represent hundreds of construction contractors and thousands of construction workers throughout Oregon who work on public and private projects across the state. Our contractors and members hold specialty licenses that are overseen by BCD and the building codes we work with daily are also administered by this agency.

We interact with the agency regularly through its various construction boards and are satisfied and supportive of their work and budgets – which are based on the fees we pay. We greatly appreciate their fiscal management and forward thinking on budget management for the years ahead which may see economic volatility for the construction industry if there is a recession.

Construction is an important economic engine for Oregon and the work of the BCD staff is vital to it. Their assistance and leadership during the pandemic helped keep us working, providing essential services to the public – and since we, unlike our counterparts in Washington for several months, were able to keep working we continued to pay income taxes and were not a drain on unemployment.

We greatly appreciate the work of this agency staff and their leadership, and that of DCBS, in proactively working with us to both keep construction moving and the public and our workforce safe.

We urge the Committee to support this measure and the budgets for BCD and DCBS.