



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

To: Chair Hovley
Vice-Chairs Elmer and Sosa
Members of the House Business and Labor Committee

FR: Catie Theisen, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: SB 594 Support

April 18, 2023

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is proud to be a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 594 to help ensure that *all* public projects support high road jobs.

Structural demolition and hazardous waste removal are scopes of work that construction craft laborers and other trades workers are trained to perform with a high degree of skill. This work can be exceedingly strenuous and at times dangerous. However, unlike other public works projects, these projects are not currently specified as public works and thus are too often excluded from prevailing wage requirements.

This exemption amounts to a devaluing of demolition and waste removal occupations and can undermine fair-market wages for workers.

SB 594 addresses this by specifically including demolition and hazardous material removal under the definition of public works. This change in Oregon would likely come before a similar change under the Federal Davis Bacon law. By aligning both state and federal law it will aid predictability for contractors on taxpayer funded projects.

It's critical that important and dangerous demolition and hazardous waste removal jobs are held to the same high standard as every other public works project and promote high-road, prevailing wage jobs. We encourage your support of SB 594.