



Testimony in Support of HB 2098 -4

May 5, 2023

Co-Chairs Representative McLain, and Senator Frederick,
Co-Vice Chairs Representative Boshart Davis, and Senator Boquist,
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,

The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council is a statewide umbrella organization comprised of 31-member unions, representing tens of thousands of Union skilled trades workers across and around Oregon. The Council was formed in 1940 to bring together building-related trades to protect the welfare of workers and learn from one another and provide our members' voices here in the state legislature.

Today, we continue to work together to fight for local jobs that provide family-sustaining wages, hours, and safe working conditions. We also advocate for public and private investments to fund a broad array of infrastructure projects. By dedicating funding to roads and bridges, broadband, airports, energy infrastructure, and economic development opportunities in all communities across Oregon, we can create family-sustaining jobs, increase safety, and build ladders of opportunity for women and other underrepresented individuals that want careers in construction.

As the federal government contemplates investments in transportation projects of national significance, the Interstate Bridge spanning Oregon and Washington rises to the top. Our support for HB 2098 -4 amendment comes from over two decades of our efforts to replace the bridge and we must act now to be competitive for federal dollars.

This project offers an opportunity to expand and continue to diversify the construction workforce. The best way to ensure Oregon's investments are maximized is to apply strong labor standards to the project. We understand that prevailing wages will apply, but the Legislature can do more by requiring ODOT to partner with the Building Trades so we can ensure the values we hear expressed by many of you are reflected in the project implementation. Project Labor and Community Benefits Agreements are proven project delivery tools used by various federal, state, and local governments across the country to assure that workers from both urban and rural areas are provided family sustaining wages and benefits, safe working conditions, safety training, and contractors use and recruit a diverse workforce, as well as state registered apprentices. This is why we oppose the – 2 amendment, as it would hinder competition by blocking stakeholders

from negotiating a harmonious labor agreement with components that would truly benefit the surrounding communities and the region.

The Union members we represent, current and apprentices who earn while they learn, stand ready to get to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Camarillo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Camarillo
Executive Secretary

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