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## YES on Senate Bill 2057A

### Oregon Deserves Responsible Contractors

May 9, 2023

Chair Taylor and members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractor National Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington (SMACNA) urges your support for House Bill 2057A.

House Bill 2057A encourages the construction industry to do away with fraudulent contractors, *while* promoting those who have a strong record of complying with labor law and looking after their employees.

Wage theft is unacceptable, and an unfortunate and illegal tool some contractors use.

Vulnerable and marginalized workers are often the primary victims of wage theft. It is well known that when workers are fairly compensated, they can afford their basic needs, support their families, and put dollars back into their communities.

Thus, it is critical that bad acting contractors who commit wage theft are held to account.

House Bill 2057A ensures that general contractors will be jointly responsible with their subcontractors for unpaid wages to workers of the subcontractor. This helps make certain that workers are made whole and paid for the work they have performed - and encourages *thoughtfulness* in selecting subcontractors.

Not only does this protect Oregon's workers - it also creates fair competition for the good contractors who act with integrity and treat their workers well.

Additionally, good contractors improve the industry by attracting and retaining a reliable work force. This enhances the likelihood that Oregon's infrastructure is built well and in compliance with the law.

House Bill 2057A will give workers faith in their employers and provide all entities hiring a contractor confidence in the quality of the contractor's work and character.

SMACNA urges your enthusiastic support for House Bill 2057A.