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February 10, 2024

Senator Floyd Prozanski Chair Senate Committee On Judiciary

Senator Kim Thatcher Vice-Chair Senate Committee On Judiciary

Regarding PEO Support of SB 1575

Dear Senators and Committee,

The Professional Engineers of Oregon (PEO) has completed its annual review of legislative bills and offers our members' positions on SB 1575.

PEO exists to unify engineering professionals under a code of conduct, ethics, professionalism, a standard of technical excellence and public safety. We promote the Professional Engineer (PE) as a recognized voice in society through legislative advocacy, public education, and adherence to engineering principles and standards. Oregon's engineers care deeply about our communities and invests large amounts of time in our local economy which created jobs and housing for all Oregonians.

Currently, our profession is forced into unfair contracting practices with 'duty to defend' clauses which require us to pay legal expenses for all those involved in contested cases even before fault is determined. This unfair practice is detrimental to all design firms which include the licensed PE. We believe that SB 1575 rectifies bad and unfair contract practices and ensures everyone involved in a project pays their fair share of legal expenses.

Therefore, we respectfully ask this committee to support SB 1575 and its amendment as PEO strongly supports and advocates for its passage.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact PEO if you have any questions regarding our support of this important legislation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Paul A. Sellke".

Paul Sellke, PE, GE

PEO President

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