

January 28, 2025

AGC Testimony Re: SB 800

Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chairs McLane and Patterson, and Members of the Committee:

Associated General Contractors – Oregon Columbia Chapter represents a broad cross-section of the commercial construction industry, including open shop and union, rural and metro, highway and building contractors. Most of our members are small, homegrown businesses, doing business throughout Oregon.

We appreciate the intentions of this bill, and agree that companies throughout the state need to be in compliance with our state’s tax laws. However, we do have concerns with the possible implications of this bill on the public contracting and licensure processes in Oregon.

Public contracting is a complex process that requires significant administrative work, both for the contractors and the agencies who are contracting out the work. Our concern is that adding further requirements to an already complicated process can lead to delays and additional costs in the process.

The same is true of the licensure process. Our contractors are required to be licensed through the Construction Contractors Board. Issues within the licensing process, including anything that slows down the process of receiving a license or renewing a license, can cause hardship for contractors who need that license to earn their livelihood. An unintended consequence of this legislation could be to cause delays in the licensure process, and those delays could have a negative effect on businesses across the state.

While we understand the intention behind the bill, we encourage the Committee to consider the other impacts that these proposed changes could have on the public contracting and licensure processes as a whole. We have marked our testimony as neutral, given that from the hearing it appears that the bill will be worked on further or become a work group effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I would appreciate the opportunity to work with the committee further on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Adams
Director and Counsel – Policy and Public Affairs
Associated General Contractors, Oregon-Columbia Chapter

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