

Re: Senate Bill 720
Marc Monaghan
Pence Contractors

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber and Members of the Committee,

My name for the record is Marc Monaghan, I'm a Vice President at Pence Contractors and a POIC board member.

We are a mid-sized construction company of about 200 people, and since 1949 we've built projects like the DAS Executive Building, Raleigh Hills Elementary School, David Douglas High School, and our sister company, Pence/Kelly Concrete is working on the CAMS project here in this building.

I'm here today in strong support of Senate Bill 720 because to meet the construction industry needs in Oregon today, we are about 5,300 skilled workers short.

As a leader in the construction industry and in our company, I talk to a lot of people about their challenges.

When asked what their greatest challenge is, without exception, they answer "I can't get enough skilled people."

Nobody says, "I don't have enough insurance," or "I can't get enough lumber." It's "we can't find enough skilled people to do the work that's available."

And it's getting more and more difficult to fill these open positions.

When we don't have enough skilled people, the work is less safe, less productive, and more expensive.

Pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs are among the best sources of skilled labor entering the construction workforce - that's what POIC delivers.

Senate Bill 720 would support POIC's effort to build the Sunrise Campus Cultural Workforce Center, where more people from more walks of life will be connected to opportunities like pre-apprenticeship, workforce training, and wrap-around services.

When our new hires come through a pre-apprenticeship program like the one POIC offers, they understand what the work is, they're more committed to the industry, and they are more likely to stay in the job.

Furthermore, our industry desperately needs more workers who are women, people of color, and others from traditionally underserved communities. POIC's programs are particularly focused on those communities.

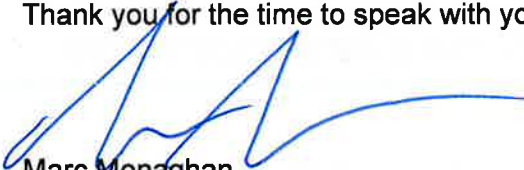
This is why I urge you to support this \$5 Million investment through Senate Bill 720.

In the context of a large construction project, \$5 million isn't a lot of money. But \$5m invested in POIC's project will make an out-sized impact in addressing our shortage of skilled labor and in the lives of the marginalized communities POIC serves.

This is an investment the State should make in its future, that will pay dividends in living wage jobs and more efficient and safer construction projects.

As an industry and a company, we're committed to making sure our workforce is strong and diverse – that's why I urge you to support SB 720.

Thank you for the time to speak with you today,



Marc Monaghan
Partner, Vice President
Pence Contractors
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