



February 12, 2025

RE: Written Testimony on HB 2799

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Muñoz and Elmer, 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, working throughout Oregon and SW Washington.

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

We value the efforts of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association in involving stakeholders and the Management-Labor Advisory Committee. HB 2799 proposes replacing the existing statutory limit of \$1,500 with "reasonable costs." We are concerned about removing the cap entirely, as it could lead to more extended litigation over what qualifies as "reasonable costs." Additionally, we are concerned about broadening the list of reimbursable costs to include those not currently specified by statute. We look forward to further discussions and believe MLAC can reach an agreement to present to the House Labor and Workplace Standards committee.

We thank the Chair and committee for their commitment to the MLAC process and allowing the conversation to continue there.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Adams  
AGC Director and Counsel – Policy and  
Public Affairs

Paloma Sparks  
OBI Executive Vice President and  
General Counsel