



Date: February 14, 2025

To: Representative Dacia Grayber, Chair
House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: **Support of HB 3216**

Chair Grayber and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share why we are interested in updating Oregon’s prevailing wage reporting system. The goal is to modernize Oregon’s public contracting process by establishing a centralized electronic reporting system at BOLI to ensure transparency, improve compliance with prevailing wage laws, and helps support an equal playing field for businesses.

Why It Matters:

Oregon needs an efficient, transparent system to monitor prevailing wage compliance on public works projects. HB 3216 isn’t a new concept — Washington State, as does California, already has a model, reducing administrative burdens for contractors while enhancing enforcement capabilities for state agencies. Oregon’s current process of requesting documents from multiple agencies, paying public records cost and delays does not lead to increased transparency and the ability to ensure everyone is following the same set of rules. With multiple prevailing wage rate regions in Oregon and multiple employers on a jobsite, sometimes with mixed crews, workers often don’t know whether a project prevails, the regional rate and the classification of work. Having ready

access to information will ensure the right wages, the right job classification, and the proper use of apprentices are in-place. We also think a single-statewide system will make it easier for BOLI to verify a complaint since the records will be in one location, which will allow for problems to get addressed faster, and earlier in the construction project. Finding issues earlier will help reduce the costs for everyone.

Benefits of HB 3216

- **Transparency:** Ensures public contracting businesses are all following the same rules.
- **Efficiency:** Reduces paperwork and streamlines reporting and agency enforcement work.
- **Accountability:** Strengthens wage enforcement and protects workers.

Washington State's similar program has demonstrated increased compliance, reduced fraud, catching early mistakes, and providing consistency. Oregon can achieve the same success by having BOLI work with industry to determine how best to design a system and legislation that benefits all construction trades and contractors with adequate resources to make this project successful.