



OREGON STATE BUILDING &
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

Co-Chairs Gomberg and Woods, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry's budget request. My name is Robert Camarillo, and I am the Executive Secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Our council is a state-wide umbrella organization comprised of 31 affiliated member Unions and 6 Regional Councils. I'm honored to speak to you today on behalf of the 10s of thousands of skilled trades workers across all of Oregon that we represent.

The Oregon State Building Trades strongly supports BOLI's critical work in ensuring fair wages and protecting equal opportunities to build a strong, diverse workforce for Oregon's building and construction trades. Our member Unions are leaders in the nation - establishing gold-standard apprenticeship programs that continue to advance quality workmanship and high performing trades workers. As we see the increased need for skilled construction workers across our state, it has never been more important that we maintain high standards in both the enforcement of prevailing wage laws and the promotion of Equal Employment Opportunity within apprenticeship programs.

**One of the cornerstones of Oregon's workforce development strategy is its registered apprenticeship programs. These programs provide workers with the skills they need to succeed in high-paying, long-term careers, particularly in the building and construction trades.*

However, for these programs to truly serve all Oregonians, they must be inclusive and accessible to everyone, regardless of gender, race, or background.

BOLI plays a vital role in ensuring that apprenticeship programs comply with Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) regulations, which are designed to increase diversity and reduce discrimination within the construction workforce. This includes making sure that apprenticeship programs actively recruit and retain women, people of color, and other historically underrepresented groups. A more diverse workforce not only promotes economic equity but also strengthens the entire industry by expanding the pool of skilled workers available to meet Oregon's growing infrastructure needs.

BOLI's oversight of Equal Employment Opportunity standards ensures that apprenticeship programs:

- **Recruit and Retain a Diverse Workforce:** By enforcing EEO requirements, BOLI helps ensure that apprenticeship programs are inclusive, creating more pathways for underrepresented groups to enter and succeed in the construction industry.
- **Provide Fair and Equal Access to Opportunities:** BOLI ensures that all apprentices are treated fairly, with opportunities based on merit and ability, free from discrimination. This creates a more positive, supportive, and productive work environment for all workers.
- **Help Build a Stronger, More Resilient Workforce:** Promoting diversity in apprenticeship programs leads to a more robust and innovative workforce, better equipped to handle the challenges of a rapidly changing construction industry.

Alongside the push for greater diversity, it is equally critical that we ensure workers are paid fairly for their labor. Prevailing wage laws are designed to guarantee that ALL workers on public works projects are paid wages that reflect the local labor market standards, ensuring fairness in compensation.

BOLI's enforcement of prevailing wage laws serves a dual purpose: it ensures that workers are compensated fairly while also preventing employers from undercutting each other by paying lower wages or exploiting workers. This is particularly important in the construction industry, where pay discrepancies can lead to a race to the bottom, driving wages down and potentially compromising the quality of work, and creating an uneven playing field where good contractors have to compete against those that steal wages.

In conclusion, the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council strongly supports BOLI's budget request and urge the committee to prioritize the funding needed to the entire agency.

This investment in Oregon's workforce will pay dividends for years to come, ensuring that our state's construction industry remains a source of opportunity and prosperity for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Executive Secretary: Robert Camarillo

Political & Special Projects Coordinator: Hayley Watson

Affiliated Unions

1. Boilermakers Local 242	17. OR & S. Idaho District Council of Laborers
2. Bricklayers Local 1	18. Floor Coverers Local 1236
3. Cement Masons Local 555	19. Office & Professional Employees Local 11
4. Heat and Frost Insulators Local 36	20. Operating Engineers Local 701
5. Drywall Finishers Local 101	21. Painters & Drywall Finishers Local 10
6. IBEW Local 48	22. Painters District Council No. 5
7. IBEW Local 112	23. Plasterers Local 82
8. IBEW Local 280	24. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 290
9. IBEW Local 659	25. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 598
10. IBEW Local 932	26. Roofers Local 49
11. Elevator Constructors Local 23	27. Sheet Metal Workers Local 16
12. Glaziers Local 740	28. Sheet Metal Workers Local 55
13. Ironworkers Local 29	29. Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 669
14. Ironworkers Shop Local 516	30. Teamsters Local 162
15. Ironworkers District Council	31. Joint Council of Teamsters No. 37
16. Laborers Local 737	

Regional Councils:

- Central Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council
- Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council
- Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Council
- Pendleton Building and Construction Trades Council
- Salem Building and Construction Trades Council
- Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council