



International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers
NWRC of SMART, Local 16

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March 17, 2025

Re: Support for SB 569

Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Strickland, Special Projects Counsel for, and proud member of the NWRC of SMART, Local 16. Our union represents over 2,000 sheet metal workers and their families across Oregon and Southwest Washington. My union stands in strong support of SB 569 with the -1 amendment, to ensure that our members and signatory contractors have the support that they need to start up small businesses and drive family-wage job creation across our jurisdiction.

As a former law student extern at the Small Business Legal Clinic of Lewis and Clark Law School ("SBLC"), I can personally attest to the holistic approach of the legal services provided by staff at the clinic. Susan and the rest of the staff provide caring, knowledgeable, and creative legal services for disadvantaged and historically underserved communities. The services provided are far more than a single-issue one-off; the staff attorneys are careful to ensure that clients are connected with wrap-around support to access legal and financial services that provides long-term success of the client's enterprise. This approach does more than check a box, it helps guarantee that a new business is able to grow and succeed.

More than just the profound impact on clients and their communities, the SBLC represents the frontline of training the next generation of legal service providers. The perspective that I gained from my time at the SBLC informs the advice that I give and decision making that I utilize on a daily basis. While at the SBLC, I learned firsthand about both the passion and risk involved in starting a small business. I was challenged to do better for my clients and the communities that they served, as their families, and the families of their employees, depended on the success of their bold ventures. I learned about the barriers to legal and financial services, and how to better make these tools of success accessible to brave entrepreneurs. All of these lessons guide my counsel, and the counsel of others like me to this day, and ensure that our members and signatory DBE and COBID contractors and future entrepreneurs find success with our union. We urge you to support SB 569 with the -1 amendment.

Respectfully,

Scott Strickland
NWRC of SMART, Local 16