



March 13, 2025

TO: Oregon House Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development

RE: HB 3029 Concerns

The Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers, UA Local 290, and Ironworkers Local 29 are writing in opposition to HB 3029. We represent thousands of working people in the construction industry, and have some of the best training centers for our industry in the Nation.

While we understand the workforce development goals of House Bill 3029, we have significant concern that it will undermine industry-developed programs like ours that are training the next generation of workers. Our programs have operated for over a century, ensuring high work, training, safety, and wage and benefit standards that we enjoy in Oregon.

We ask that construction be removed from the bill, as our industry has already developed these programs and they have proven successful for over a hundred years. The way that the “workforce development partnerships” are spelled out in the bill looks to funnel money to programs that would operate on a ‘least cost’ model, rather than any that focus on success for apprentices and advancement of the industry.

Our programs are largely self funded – meaning there is little to no cost to the taxpayer. Further establishing a system that directs public money to competing “apprenticeships” not only directly undermines legitimate programs that protect our workers and communities, but does so with public money.

We ask that the construction industry be removed from the bill, and that the Legislature protects public funds and the high road construction industry.