

Hi am writing to express my support for this legislation that will ensure a minimum standard for utilization of registered apprentices and recruitment of historically underrepresented workers on public school district construction projects. As a member of LIUNA Local 737, I know the positive impact that good public policy can have for working people in the construction trades through strengthening essential standards across the industry.

I believe that this legislation is a very important step towards both developing our next generation of highly trained workers to help meet crucial workforce demands and expanding access to living-wage construction careers for all who desire to pursue them. While the whole of this industry stands to benefit from the strengthened skilled labor pipeline and overall pool of qualified workers that this legislation will reinforce, I want to highlight what this bill will mean for construction craft laborers like me and the impact it will have for the broader construction Workforce.

This legislation will:

Support expanded and more consistent opportunities for workers enrolled in state registered construction apprenticeship programs to receive the substantial on-the-job experience that is necessary to complete their training and advance in the industry.

Promote the continued development of an effectively trained construction workforce to keep up with both the high demand, as experienced workers continue to age out, as well as expected industry growth in the coming years.

Ensure that the significant taxpayer funds invested in building our local public-school facilities throughout the state are reliably reinforcing construction career pathways and advancing educational opportunities in the trades.

Encourage good-faith recruitment and retention of historically underrepresented workers, so that public investments in school construction can help make Oregon a place where these projects actively benefit and improve the lives of workers from all backgrounds and communities.

Ensure that apprenticeship and workforce recruitment minimum contracting standards for public school construction are aligned with the current law that covers state level, higher-education and community college projects.

I urge you to support me, fellow Laborers and the next generation of Oregon's construction workers by supporting this bill.

Jontae Clardy.