

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Munoz and Elmer, and Members of the Committee, I am writing to you today to express my strong support for HB 2688, which will help to modernize Oregon's prevailing wage laws and keep up with evolving technology.

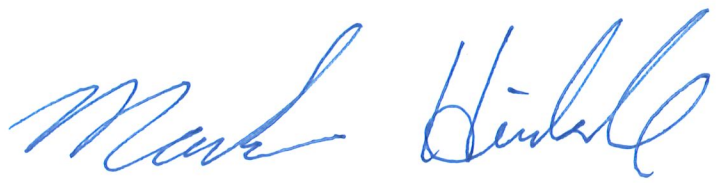
By ensuring that off-site fabrication work is covered under prevailing wage laws, we not only uphold fair labor standards but also create stronger economic conditions for all. Higher wages for workers do more than just support working Oregonians – these high-quality jobs help to increase project efficiency by attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, reducing turnover, and improving job site productivity.

Prevailing wage is designed to level the playing field amongst contractors ensuring that contractors all bid at the same rate and that the project is awarded to the team that is capable of delivering the project on time, on budget and safely while at the same time protecting the investment of taxpayer dollars by ensuring that the work is done at the highest standards possible. Allowing off-site fabrication to be done at a different payrate is simply stealing monies from the workers-they are doing the exact same work that would have been traditionally done on the jobsite. The time to close this loophole is now and relevel the playing field amongst all contractors.

Specific to rural communities across our state, prevailing wage helps ensure that there is access to funded healthcare and retirement plans and livable wages. This access ensures robust economic growth engines within the community where a project is performed. Prevailing wage rates include funding for apprenticeship and training programs. Oregon's Prevailing Wage Rate Law creates 5,400 jobs, improves the state economy by \$752 million, and generates \$35 million in state and local tax revenues every year.

I urge your support for HB 2688 to help ensure that Oregon's policies reflect the realities of the modern construction industry.

Thank you,



Mark Hinkle