

Date: February 9, 2026
To: Senate Committee on Labor & Business
Oregon State Legislature

Subject: Opposition Testimony for Senate Bill 1566



Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee, my name is Scott Oldham and I work with the Painters Local 10 in Oregon. I am asking you along with the thousands of workers in our industry to oppose SB 1566 as drafted.

We agree housing is too expensive in Oregon, but the working members of the construction trades did not raise housing prices. In fact, I believe we help the state make sure its public priorities for housing are met.

Through our privately funded training and apprenticeship programs, we make sure workers are protected by using the appropriate safety equipment, we make sure our environment is protected using safe transfer, use, removal and disposal of paint methods, and we make sure buildings are safe when the specifications call for fire-safe materials.

Our members have made a commitment to learning the important policies of the state to do our part in developing safe, durable, and affordable housing.

In our system of privately funded training and education, we don't ask the state for significant amounts of workforce dollars, and we don't operate through a traditional model of publicly funded advanced learning and education. We fund our training centers through a commitment made by employees and employers upfront before graduation of our programs. We ask the state to support wage and training standards on the back end when construction projects are publicly funded.

When projects receive public monies, they have the wages, benefits and training standards to support workforce development and advanced training through apprenticeship. If we didn't have this mechanism, we would lose the valuable workforce training system that is privately funded on the front end.

We ask you to keep our system in place and recognize the benefits of supporting our workforce development, safety and training programs through Oregon's prevailing wage system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Oldham'.

Scott Oldham, Labor Representative
Painters Local No. 10 Oregon
Commercial, Highway, Industrial, Bridge & Marine coatings