

January 9, 2026

TO: Senate Committee on Labor & Business

RE: Opposition to SB 1566



Chair Taylor, Members of the Committee;

IBEW Local 48 Represents over 6,000 men and women in the Electrical Industry in Oregon and SW Washington. For over 100 years we have worked with our partners to develop a cutting edge training program that brings highly skilled electricians into the industry. Our members are earn family wages and benefits, and our programs are funding jointly by our high-road, signatory employers and our members.

Oregon's prevailing wage is a key staple in ensuring the high quality construction that we all enjoy. It protects contractors who are investing in the success of their workforce by allowing them to effectively bid work, helps to keep bids from being lowered on the backs of the workers, and encompasses key items, like the investment in apprenticeships.

We fundamentally oppose any further exemptions to the prevailing wage law in Oregon. We have heard arguments that the path to more affordable housing is through lower wages standards – this is not backed up by research, and creates a race-to-the-bottom for the construction industry. Affordable housing should be as safe and well build as any other housing.

We disagree with the assertion that we should reduce standards on affordable housing, and are concerned at proposals that undermine the workforce, building codes, licensing, or training standards on these projects. The solution to affordable housing cannot be to leverage the workers or the core safety standards. Additionally, we strongly disagree that child care facilities should be built without these standards, as it will only undermine the ability for contractors who are invested in their safety and workforce to successfully bid the work.

We urge your opposition to SB 1566, and your support for *safe, well built* affordable housing.