

# PREVAILING WAGE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE MISSION OF ADVANCING DIGNITY & SECURITY FOR WORKERS IN OREGON

February 9, 2026

Members of the Senate Committee on Labor & Business,

Prevailing wage is the core policy that supports all construction workers in the state of Oregon. It is the backbone that allows construction workers broadly, including members of our building trades unions, to support their families through good wages, healthcare, and retirement benefits. In addition, prevailing wage laws support continued investment in workforce training and development.

## **Make no mistake: SB 1566 is an assault on workers, our unions, and long standing statute**

Presenting carveouts to prevailing wage coverage as a policy solution to high costs of housing and childcare is a false choice. By taking the proactive step of cutting wages and benefits, the Legislature would send a clear signal to Oregon's skilled workers that their ability to support their families is not a priority.

Oregon's construction industry has been disproportionately hit by the affordability crisis, more than nearly every other sector. Oregonians are struggling to afford housing and childcare because their jobs don't pay enough. Decades of attacks on working people and our unions around the country have deeply impacted what workers earn.

## **Eroding prevailing wage will not only fail to solve the problems of unaffordable housing and childcare, but will further exacerbate the root causes that have led to these things being unaffordable in the first place**

During the past several legislative sessions, the Legislature has strengthened prevailing wage and other worker protections in statute. SB 1566 and other similar bills stand in sharp contrast to that forward progress, undermining protections and standards that support all Oregon workers.

We urge the Committee to reverse course by not advancing bills that would weaken prevailing wage and adversely impact Oregon's skilled trades workers, workforce development, and members of our unions.

## **DEFEND PREVAILING WAGE. DEFEND OREGON'S WORKERS.**

