



Date: February 16, 2026
To: Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue
Oregon State Legislature

Subject: Support Testimony for Senate Bill 1586

Chair Broadman and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Todd Mustard, and I am writing to you on behalf of the Oregon Chapters of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). We represent more than 150 electrical contractors statewide who perform between 8 and 10 million hours of electrical work annually. That work represents thousands of highly trained, professionally licensed Oregonians earning family-wage jobs with strong benefits.

We often speak about the importance of building and maintaining infrastructure — strengthening our roads and bridges, modernizing our energy systems, and ensuring our communities are resilient and sustainable. But there is another form of infrastructure that deserves equal attention: **Oregon's workforce.**

Our contractors and skilled electricians are the workforce "infrastructure" that ensures electrical projects are completed safely, efficiently, and reliably. To maintain that workforce infrastructure, we need jobs. Jobs provide apprenticeship opportunities. They provide the on-the-job training hours required to advance skills. They create pathways into lifelong careers. Without consistent work opportunities, that workforce pipeline weakens.

Senate Bill 1586 is fundamentally a jobs bill — and Oregon needs jobs.

We understand there are technical arguments both for and against this legislation. Our message to you today is simple: this bill creates real career opportunities for Oregonians. For high school graduates exploring their next step. For community college students. For veterans returning home from military service. For individuals seeking a career change. SB 1586 helps ensure we can offer them access to high-demand, high-skill careers with excellent wages, strong benefits, and meaningful work building and maintaining the electrical systems that power our schools, hospitals, and businesses.

I want to emphasize the urgency: we have not opened our training center to new applicants for over a year because there simply have not been enough jobs available for graduates. That is not the future we want for Oregon's workforce.

We stand ready to train the next generation. We stand ready to create opportunity. But we need projects. We need jobs. As you consider this bill, I encourage you to think about the young person looking for direction, the veteran seeking a new start, or the neighbor ready to build a better future. These are careers that cannot be outsourced. They cannot be automated. They will remain in demand long into the future.

Help us help Oregonians access stable, family-wage careers. We respectfully urge your support for SB 1586.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Todd R. Mustard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Todd" being the most prominent.

Todd Mustard, Executive Manager,
Oregon-Columbia Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association