

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 John Killin, and I represent the Associated Wall and Ceiling Contractors. We support Senate Bill 1586.

AWCC is a group of union signatory commercial subcontractors that combine to employ thousands of carpenters, finishers, laborers, painters, and plasterers. The group contributes millions of dollars to pensions, health insurance, and training funds while employing these construction professionals year after year. It is these individual union members who will benefit most from the opportunities that would be created by this bill. A lot of these individuals are having to make hard choices right now between hoping for local work and moving to places like Boise where work is plentiful.

SB 1586 would make a small number of important changes to keep and bring jobs to Oregon. It would expand eligibility for state research and development tax credits to clean tech and life sciences businesses as well as those in advanced manufacturing. These areas of business activity provide good paying jobs, and Oregon needs these jobs to help pay for critical social services and to shore up our declining tax rolls in the state.

The bill will create jobs in manufacturing and construction, along with continued job opportunity in on-going maintenance and operation of those buildings. Oregon needs jobs and opportunity. We can't think of a more important bill to help struggling families and communities.

The Oregon Jobs Act is an important signal that our state is committed to remaining competitive and focused on providing higher wage, advance skill jobs that support Oregon values. The drafters of the bill have been intentional with the types of high-paying jobs we want here in Oregon. If Oregon wants to expand opportunity and incentivize the next generation of talented workers to stay in Oregon, we must offer solutions for business to expand and locate here — not out of state.

SB 1586 won't by itself lift the state from the competitive and economic depths, but it represents several steps we need to take to send a message of hope and opportunity to our workforce that Oregon cares above all about opportunity for its citizens. Without this bill, thousands more of our hard-working employees will be forced to look for work elsewhere.

John Killin, Executive Director,
Associated Wall & Ceiling Contractors of Oregon