



International Association of
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers
LOCAL UNION NO. 16

2379 N.E. 178th AVE., SUITE 16
PORTLAND, OREGON 97230-5957
PHONE: (503) 254-0123 • FAX: (503) 254-0157

February 16, 2026

Chair: Senator Janeen Sollman

Vice Chair: Senator David Brock Smith

Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment:

RE: Yes, on HB-4102-1 Amendment.

HB-4102-1 Amendment

My Name is Russ Benton. I'm a Regional Representative and Political Coordinator for the Sheet Metal Workers of SMART Local 16.

I am writing this letter on behalf of over 2,000 SMART Local 16 members in support of the **HB 4102-1 Amendment**.

The -1 amendment creates public oversite for Oregon's permitting process to help prevent conflicts of interest. We are in favor of accelerating the permitting process as long as that new system does not weaken workforce standards or public oversite. Oregon relies a great deal on the construction industry to stabilize our economy and to support the middle class. This is why labor standards and the disposable income created by these family wage jobs are so incredibly important. This income generates tax revenue that is recirculated in local communities which supports the small business located there. Privatizing the public permitting process without accountability is unacceptable. Without the -1 amendment HB-4102 moves Oregon's permitting process towards benefiting regulated industries while weakening public oversite. This could lead to communities having a difficult time challenging or even understanding how to ensure that polluters are following the law. Which is why we could only support this bill with the -1 amendment. SMART Local 16 does not want public health, environmental integrity, or workforce standards compromised for efficiency.

Oregon's economy has been hit especially hard in 2025 due to federal funding being cut across many sectors by the current federal administration. Protecting Oregon's environment and working families through labor standards is why we can only support **HB-4102 -1 Amendment**.

We urge the committee to support the -1 amendment to protect Oregon's environment and family wages jobs through labor standards. **Please vote Yes on the HB-4102-1 Amendment**

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Benton".

Russ Benton
Regional Representative/ Political Coordinator
Sheet Metal Workers
SMART Local 16
NWRC,