



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,

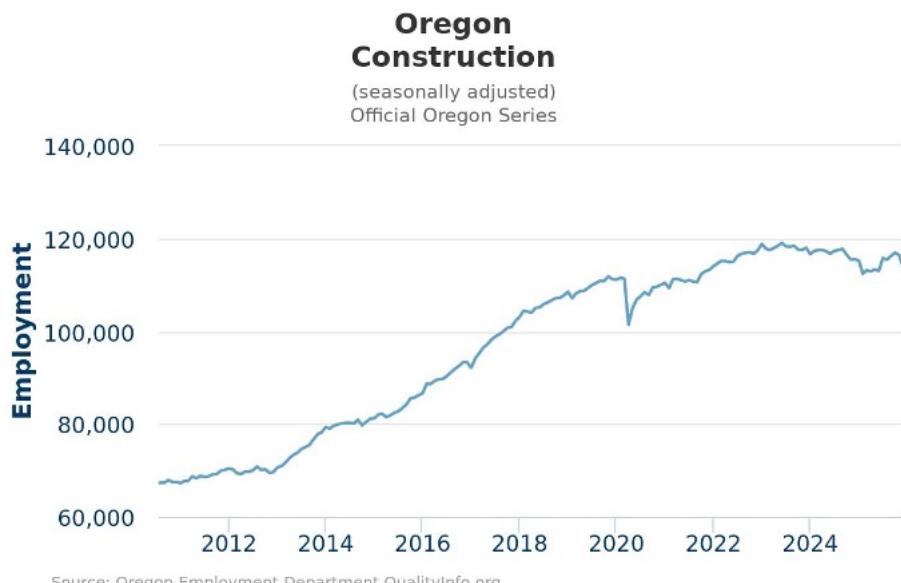
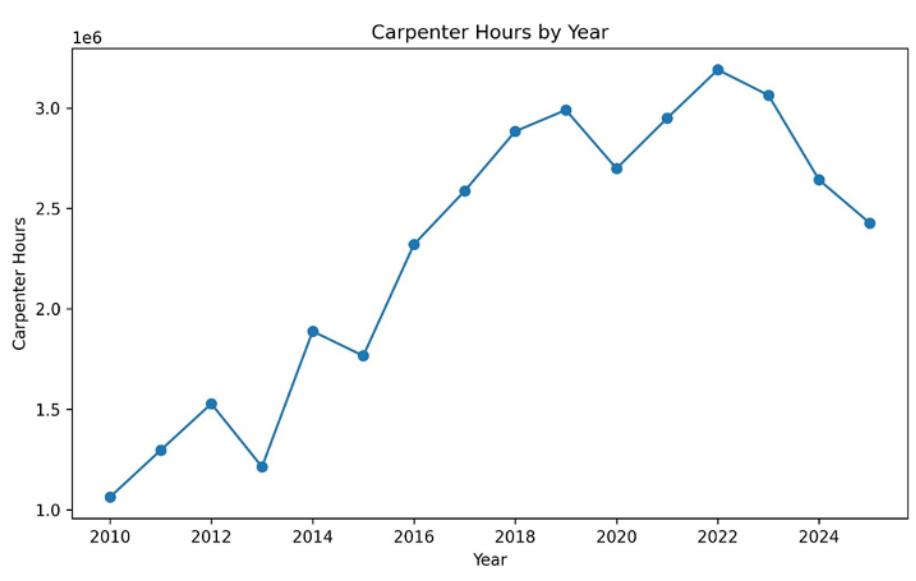
The AWCC supports SB 1586 as an effort to create jobs and economic development in Oregon. The following are additional data points to explain the importance of jobs creation to our association members and their employees.

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 other places where work is more plentiful.

In 2022, across our five wall and ceiling trades, we contributed 3.99 million union labor hours to the tax rolls, retirements, health care, apprenticeship training, and the broader economy. This reflects the employment of more than 3,000 construction professionals between field and office. By 2025, that field hour figure dropped to 3.08 million hours for a loss of nearly 23% in just a few years. We did not change the number of contractors, but the loss of local employment opportunities and thus employment changed dramatically around us.

At the end of 2022, we happened to have hired an actuarial study for our industry to look at the projected the number of active working individuals projected for the following decade if we did not backfill retirements and general attrition. The shocking outcome is that the attrition rate was nearly perfectly aligned with our shrinking number of hours three years later. In other words, we haven't hired anyone new in three years. Indeed, we have lost nearly a quarter of our workforce to retirements and people leaving Oregon's commercial construction industry.

As a result, we are just now opening our apprenticeship programs for applications for the first time in 2.5 years. We are only doing this now because the programs have shrunk by nearly 80% as apprentices have either graduated or left the local industry for other opportunities and we believe in investing in the future of the workforce.



Source: Oregon Employment Department QualityInfo.org

It can be noted that the construction industry as a whole has not suffered the same level of decline as the commercial and industrial. The first of the charts shows AWCC hours by our leading trade (carpenters) since 2010. The second chart shows the same time frame's employment in the broader construction industry. We note that our drop-off is very specific in the last few years with much of the decline coming from the manufacturing sector and the lack of new office building space investment.

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