

February 16, 2026

To: Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith,
members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Amanda Kraus, on behalf of the Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers (OSAEW)

Dear, Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee,

The OSAEW represents seven IBEW Local Unions and over ten thousand workers in the electrical industry who are working in communities across our entire state.

Over the last century, the IBEW has developed industry-funded, cutting-edge apprenticeship programs that train highly skilled electricians.

The OSAEW is neutral on the underlying measure and supportive of the -1 amendment to House Bill 4102.

We believe that it is a shared goal in Oregon that work in the construction industry should be performed by a skilled and trained Oregon workforce. A foundational part of this is utilizing apprentices and journey workers that have gone through apprenticeship programs approved by Oregon's Apprenticeship and Training Council (OSATC) regardless of whether they are Union or not.

Work should be done right, workers should be paid appropriately, and we should not undercut contractors who are invested in developing Oregon's workforce.

We understand the need for getting projects through permitting with as few obstacles as possible – our industry depends on projects being built. It is important that as we look at expedited permitting, we ensure it is done responsibly, and by a skilled and trained workforce that is paid the local wage for Oregon.

Looking to responsible, timely development, this amendment simply has those who are seeking an expedited permit to submit an assurance that they will be built in accordance with Oregon's existing, good standards. Primarily, that apprentices on these jobs are part of an OSATC approved program, journey workers are tied to an OSATC approved program, and workers are paid the prevailing rate of wage.

Ensuring that we support high road contractors and that we use workers trained in line with Oregon's standards and paid our area wages should be shared goals across this state. We applaud the work toward permitting expeditiously and are hopeful that the work done is done well - by Oregonians because they are the ones invested in our communities.

And that's what's best for our entire, complex state.

Thank you for your time and leadership, and consideration.

With respect,

Amanda Kraus

FocusPoint Communications
on behalf of the State Association of Electrical Workers

