



Date: March 3, 2026

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means

From: The UA Local 290, the Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers, the IBEW Local 48

Re: House Bill 4084C – Opposition to the -B24 Amendment

Dear Chairs Leiber & Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means,

The UA 290 and the OSAEW collectively represent thousands of Union workers in the Construction industry in Oregon. Our industry is dependent on a successful economy, and development by companies that hire a Union workforce.

We rely on Oregon's investment in projects that grow Oregon's economy. Done by a skilled and trained workforce and apprentices that are earning while learning.

Data Centers have provided Union jobs across Oregon – not just Washington County, not just along the I5 corridor – those jobs include rural corners of Oregon. These developments provide jobs to Oregonians who live and invest in their local communities and economies.

As an example, in Deschutes County, the IBEW was able to grow their workforce and build a new training center that serves the region in multiple sectors , and this was largely possible due to work on Data Centers.

Additionally, the UA Local 290 have seen job creation and sustained jobs across rural areas, including Crook County. This work is not simply a one-time build, it is ongoing maintenance, refurbishment, and enhancement.

The -B24 amendment to then HB 4084B that was adopted by the Ways and Means Committee on Capital Construction directly impacts Data Center development specifically, and the economy generally. It also jeopardizes work for construction workers in all trades across the State.

When construction work is down, the economy becomes even more unpredictable, and this industry is one of most recession prone industries. We should not be punishing the industries that are willing to invest, able to invest, and that hire a strong and skilled Union workforce – as we have proven time and again Labor keeps Oregon moving.

The out-of-work lists for this highly trained and skilled workforce reflect a lack of investment in Oregon, and its best workforce. What is worse for Oregon is making this workforce look for jobs out of state – and that’s already happening.

We are excited to see economic development and process tools that that will result from HB 4084C, to keep work progressing. However, the -B24 that was adopted on March 2nd ultimately results in an opportunity lost for those in construction careers, and the continued growth of the Union construction industry across multiple sectors.

Data Center projects like these are critical for our industry, and the benefit of these jobs has a substantial potential for the careers of our members, the development of our local economies, and Oregon’s long-term growth and success.

We urge you to consider our concerns that originated in the -B24 amendment that are now incorporated in the -B26 amendment.

With Respect,

The UA Local 290

The Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers

The IBEW Local 48