



# Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association

April 4, 2017

TO: Senate Workforce Committee

## RE: **PMCA Supports SB 1040: The Rural Oregon Worker Protection Act**

PMCA represents 175 plumbing and mechanical contractors throughout Oregon, Southwest Washington, and the northernmost counties in California. PMCA's focus is the betterment of plumbing and mechanical contractors, our workforce, and the plumbing industry.

PMCA works collaboratively with our union, the United Association Local 290 Plumbers and Steamfitters (UA 290), and believes it is in the best interest of both our workers and employers to maintain that strong relationship. Our partnership with UA 290 has allowed us the ability to recruit, train and continuously educate the best workforce in our industry. We jointly fund and manage a 5-year apprenticeship program that turns out highly qualified and well paid workers. This arrangement also allows us to provide our workforce with family wage jobs, excellent healthcare and retirement benefits.

**One of Oregon's key advantages in attracting high tech industries has been our state's highly skilled construction workforce.** Any significant and inconsistent changes to labor relations in the state could be highly detrimental to efforts we undertake toward workforce development and providing a highly skilled and motivated labor force.

We believe that it is mutually understood that the public can be best served and progress maintained and furthered, in the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry, only if there is a sound, reasonable, and harmonious working relationship between the Employer and the Employee. SB 1040 brings consistency to our labor relationships and allows our contractors and workers to continue to thrive- and in effect provides quality work and economic benefit to Oregon and its residents.

Sincerely,

Frank Wall, *PMCA Executive Director*

Brian Krieg, *Government Relations Representative*

The PMCA represents over 175 contractors who employ on average over 3,000 people working throughout Oregon

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