

Chair Taylor, Members of the Committee, my name is Tim Foster, Assistant Business Manager for IBEW Local 48 and here on behalf of the Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council. Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you about the importance of SB 1040, the Rural Oregon Worker Protection Act, to Building Trades workers.

The Building and Construction Trades with approximately 25,000 workers, in 21 unions in 6 regional councils in Oregon do construction work in literally every corner of the state. The nature of our work is temporary meaning when I as an electrician showed up on a job I was working myself out of that job this could mean that I might be working in Eugene one week, Astoria the next and The Dalles the week after that.

The historically good relationships we have with our contractors and their related associations through the years, is critical to the efficiency and effectiveness of our workforce. A workforce that is developed and trained at our world class training facilities that are jointly and privately funded through our unique Labor/Management trusts. This efficient and effective workforce is what drives the construction industry in Oregon. Anything that cuts into this relationship such as the potential for local anti-union, anti-middle class so-called "right to work" laws is just bad for business.

A big reason for our ability to attract new craftsmen and women into the trades is because of the statewide continuity of labor relations, and the strength and success of our apprenticeship programs. When potential apprentices look at their options for joining a craft, they can look across Oregon and see that standards are the same everywhere. There are no counties that have enacted harmful legislation for workers, there are no cities that are actively attacking workers and their unions. This reality gives an apprentice the confidence that their career choice is a sound one and that, if they put in the work, time and commit to their craft, this choice provides a pathway to support their families, contribute to their communities and do meaningful work that leaves a lasting impact.

Due to the recent court case you've heard about, and without this bill, new apprentices could face a very different reality than what I faced when I entered the craft. This bill is a simple way to ensure that new apprentices entering the field can have the assurances that a construction craft is a solid bet on their future, even with the natural ebbs and flows of the industry

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1040 today.

Tim Foster

Assistant Business Manager, IBEW Local 48 and Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council