

Submitter: Jason Fussell
On Behalf Of: Iron Workers Local 29
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1566

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jason Fussell, Business Manager for Iron Workers Local 29. I am writing in opposition to SB 1566.

Removing prevailing wage from affordable housing is not a solution to making housing more affordable. It lowers construction standards, discourages a skilled workforce, and does not result in meaningful cost savings for tenants or buyers. What it does do is invite low-road contractors to compete by cutting wages and training, rather than efficiency and quality.

This bill is especially concerning because it applies to buildings up to seven stories tall. Structures of that height require a highly trained workforce to be built safely. Eliminating prevailing wage on projects of this scale is flat dangerous and puts workers and future occupants at risk.

Affordable housing should be built safely, responsibly, and to last. SB 1566 moves Oregon in the wrong direction. I urge the Committee to oppose the bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Fussell
Business Manager, Iron Workers Local 29