

Submitter: Tyler Smith
On Behalf Of: Ironworkers Local 29
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1566

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Hayden, my name is Tyler Smith.

I am an ironworker and member of local 29. I am opposed to SB1566.

I build structures for a living. When a building goes up to seven stories, that is not simple work. It is structural work that has to be done right the first time. Whether it is steel, reinforcing, or systems like cross-laminated timber, it all carries load and it all has to be erected safely by trained workers.

Prevailing wage is how workers like me stay in this trade long enough to gain that experience. When wages are cut, skilled workers leave. Turnover goes up, training suffers, and safety is put at risk. That does not make projects cheaper, and it does not make them safer.

Lowering wages will not fix the affordable housing crisis. It just pushes the cost onto the people building the housing and makes it harder to keep skilled workers on the job.

Affordable housing should still be built to a high standard, by trained workers earning a fair day's wage.

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 1566.

Thank you.