



March 13, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Portland City Hall  
1221 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

Oregon Tradeswomen is now in our 30<sup>th</sup> year advocating for strong programming to support our region's jobseekers with good careers in the skilled trades, and in particular, women and people of color. Because many of our community's jobseekers have barriers to employment, it is critical for them to have not only quality job readiness training and skills-building, but access to supportive services. Through the Employment Opportunity Program (EOP), Oregon Tradeswomen is able to serve hundreds of women annually who otherwise would not be able to be successful in our pre-apprenticeship training program or in skilled trade's career pathways.

The EOP has provided students in our free, 8-week apprenticeship readiness program with the support necessary for entering full-time employment in an industry, which while fulfilling and well-paid, has many challenges. Providing the job coaching, case management, retention support and other tangible resources such as housing support, including rental assistance, childcare, and transportation assistance, have made the difference for hundreds of our program graduates.

Oregon Tradeswomen is grateful for the coordination and management of the EOP funds by WorkSystems Inc., who not only is a funder, but provides on-going programming support, strategic resources, and innovative funding leverage for programs such as ours to ensure women in our community are moved from poverty to prosperity in the skilled trades. We appreciate the partnership and encourage continued funding for, and administration, by Worksystems for EOP.

One recent graduate story we would like to share with you is a young woman named Vanessa T. Vanessa began our job readiness program just two days after exiting the adult corrections system. Challenged with having absolutely nothing to her name, no job, no income, and no training, Vanessa heard about our program while incarcerated. Through the support of our case management team, she was able to access resources, including housing assistance because of EOP. Vanessa graduated from our program last week, moved into her own apartment and started a job making family-supporting wages for a Portland company. Without EOP, we would not be able to share this success story.

We hope that you, and the esteemed members of Council will continue to support funding for the program, and along with us, be proud that we can lift up our community's most vulnerable population through a hand up, not a hand out, in job training, support and retention services. The construction industry employs approximately 47,000 persons in the Portland Metro area with average wages of approximately \$50,000 or more annually. Skilled tradespeople earn starting average wages of \$18 or

more, and quick advances to \$39 or more per hour, with good benefits, usually well above median wages and Vanessa is now a part of the industry, and a contributing member of our community.

Thank you for your support to ensure jobseekers can have access to the support needed to have a career path to family wage jobs, economic security, and a future career that will serve not only our workforce, but our industry and region well.

Sincerely,



Kelly M. Kupcak  
Executive Director  
Oregon Tradeswomen



# Oregon Tradeswomen

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March 13, 2019

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly  
Portland City Hall  
1221 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

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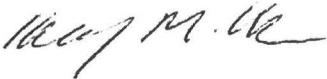
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly M. Kupcak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kelly M. Kupcak  
Executive Director  
Oregon Tradeswomen



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March 13, 2019

Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Portland City Hall  
1221 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

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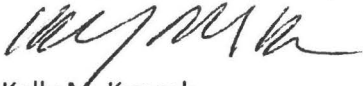
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Kelly M. Kupcak  
Executive Director  
Oregon Tradeswomen



March 13, 2019

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty  
Portland City Hall  
1221 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

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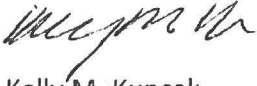
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Commissioner Nick Fish  
Portland City Hall  
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Portland, OR 97204

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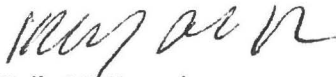
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