



April 15, 2015

Prevailing Wage Rate Coordinator  
Bureau of Labor and Industries  
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 1045  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Coordinator:

I am writing on behalf of Compass Land Surveyors as one of the owners and the President, in opposition to the request letter from the International Union of Operating Engineers/Local 701 to revise the Power Equipment Operator's definition. The union requests that Land Surveyor Party Chief subclassification be moved to Power Equipment Operator Group 2 as covered by prevailing wage classification under ORS 279C.

With advancements in technology, contractors and lay persons attempt to use this technology to perform tasks outside their area of expertise. Surveyors, trained in school and mentored by surveyors working in their field, use their education and experience to make daily decisions that may conflict with Union mandated responsibilities.

My opposition is based on the fact that land surveying is a profession; that land surveyors do not use power equipment; that party chiefs are in a supervisory position; and that the request by International Union of Operating Engineer contains factual errors as to the fundamental nature of the duties of a surveying party chief. Finally, this was not initiated for the benefit of the surveying profession or in consultation with the professional association representing land surveyors.

Surveying is a profession as defined by ORS 672.002(4) and OAR 820-010. Land surveyors are required to obtain a professional license and bound by rules of professional conduct (OAR 820-020). Land surveyors are regulated as a profession by the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS). Survey Party Chiefs are often licensed and, regardless of license status, are bound by the same rules of professional conduct that a licensed surveyor must follow.

Party Chiefs in survey crews are supervisors and therefore should not be classified as Power Equipment Operators. Survey Party Chiefs are constantly required to make independent and autonomous decisions. They are expected to understand legal principles, geomatics, cadastral surveying principles, construction principles and the Public Land Survey System. Furthermore, Party Chiefs are expected to train their charges in these subjects. The need for constant training demonstrates that they are operating in a supervisory capacity.



4107 SE International Way, Suite 705, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

Phone: 503.653.9093 Fax: 503.653.9095 Email: [miker@compass-landsurveyors.com](mailto:miker@compass-landsurveyors.com)

Land surveying Party Chiefs rarely, if ever, use power equipment and therefore should not be classified as Power Equipment Operators. Many Party Chiefs do not run total stations because it is easier to control and supervise the job while using a prism pole. Furthermore, it is inaccurate to consider total stations or GPS units power equipment when they are instruments of the profession.

In summary, Land Surveying Party Chiefs are professionals, act in a supervisory capacity, and do not use power equipment. They should not be included in Power Equipment Operator Group 2. I ask you to reject the International Union of Operating Engineers/Local 701 request based on statutes, administrative rules, and because facts stated in their request do not reflect the reality of the duties and responsibilities of a Survey Party Chief. Finally, reject their petition as it doesn't reflect the will or best interest of professional land surveyors in Oregon.

Our company reserves the right to further participate in this process under the law including but not limited to the Administrative Procedures Act. We appreciate the consideration of the PWR Committee in evaluating this issue and considering our perspective as a company that provides surveying services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'mrademacher'.

Michael A. Rademacher, P.L.S.

MAR/ch  
N:\CLER\BOLI 041415 MR.docx

