

Good Morning members of the State Apprenticeship Council.

My name is Russell James, I am the Regional Director for District Council 16 of the International Union of Painters and allied trades. I am also President of the Northern Nevada Building Trades.

From the OWINN website under Duties & Responsibilities of the State Apprenticeship Council:

1. Number 5. Reads - To regulate the supply of skilled workers in relation to the demand for skilled workers.

So, I ask the question, Has the applicant supplied sufficient evidence that there is a need for this program in the North?

In reviewing the requests made for apprentices, in compliance with SB207, No waivers were granted for Drywall finishers or Floor coverers, While several were granted for Carpenters. Indicating there has been no shortage of apprentices for these trades.

Keeping in mind, that your “duties and responsibilities” as listed on your own website reads to regulate the supply of skilled workers in relation to the demand for skilled workers.

If there is no evidence presented with this application that there is some kind of shortage of Apprentices in these crafts, Then, there is the potential to do damage to the existing apprentices already enrolled in these programs. If the work hours get divided between programs, The apprentices have two choices.

1. To jump back and forth between programs, depending on who has the demand for apprentices at any given time. Or
2. Or continue to work in one program, which could potentially become a Part-Time job, and suffer the economic consequences. And with the consequences of a reduction in work hours and earnings, come the potential of leaving the program.

Some of these points are outlined on page 2, of the response submitted by the the Urban Law firm, as well as the potential legal issue of a contractor being forced to pay double benefits.

I think it is clear from the language on the OWIN website where it reads: The state Apprenticeship Council has the duty to regulate the supply of skilled workers in relation to the demand for skilled workers, that you have the ability to deny programs that would be harmful to existing participants.

I am not seeing any information that was submitted, that would indicate a “need” for this program.

I am also wondering? Has the Carpenter -Taper program been reviewed within the last five years?

I am asking the Apprenticeship council to Table this matter until an audit/ review is done of this program to find out if they have even graduated any drywall finisher apprentices.

Thank you for your time this morning concerning this matter.

