



March 9, 2023

Chair Paul Holvey
Vice-Chair Lucetta Elmer
Vice-Chair Nathan Sosa
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

Re: Please oppose HB HB 2057

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Elmer and Sosa, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Liability Coalition, I urge you to oppose the joint liability provisions in HB 2057. The Oregon Liability Reform Coalition (ORLRC) represents businesses and associations across a broad array of industries that share the goal of limiting the expansion of lawsuits. The ORLRC and our members are particularly concerned with the provisions in this bill which establish joint liability between a contractor and a subcontractor for unpaid wages on a non-prevailing wage project.

Like all responsible businesses, we believe that unpaid wages are a serious issue that should be remedied as quickly as possible, and bad actors should be held responsible for breaking the law. But at the same time, we want to protect both workers and businesses who follow the law.

This bill unfairly holds one independent business liable for the unpaid wages of another completely independent business. By holding general contractors liable for the unpaid wages of subcontractors, the bill not only holds the wrong party responsible for breaking the law, but it also opens up contractors to lawsuits from a "third party" who is owed a payment by a subcontractor's employee.

Employees have access to existing tools and processes to receive the compensation they are due through BOLI. This law will not deter a bad actor subcontractor from withholding wages, it will simply hold the wrong party responsible.

I urge you to remove the joint liability provision in the bill or vote no on HB 2008.

Sincerely,

Fawn Barrie
Executive Director
Oregon Liability Reform Coalition