

TO: Oregon State House Committee on Business and Labor

FR: Member's Full Name, Local and City/State

ATTN: Chairman Holvey, Vice-Chairs Elmer, and Sosa

RE: HB 2057

March 9, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bronwyn Christian; I live in Milwaukie, Oregon. I am a member of local 503, and I am here sending you my testimony online as I showed up in person today (03/08/2023) to share it before you, but there was not enough time. I figured submitting my testimony online would be sufficient enough.

I started working for Bridgeport interiors in the spring of 2020. I worked for Bridgeport interiors on Multiple job sites around Oregon. Many were prevailing wage, and I was not paid at the required pay rates.

For examples:

I worked at a low-income housing for veterans in Portland, Oregon, called Findley commons, I wasn't aware it was prevailing wage until after it was almost done. I also worked at a site called Albertina Kerr, a prevailing wage low-income housing. After multiple times asking Bridgeport interiors if it was prevailing wage, I was told "no" when Pence construction's general foreman told me that Albertina Kerr was a prevailing wage site.

I also traveled to Tillamook from Gresham, Oregon, for work when the COVID pandemic started; that was the only work, so of course, I took it because I needed to pay my bills and make ends meet during financial hardship. After working there back and forth daily, off and on for months, I found out it was a prevailing wage project; Bridgeport Interior's excuse to not pay the prevailing wage is that it was in a different county, and the pay is different.

I also traveled from Gresham, Oregon, to Tillamook, Oregon, without per diem pay, which they said we weren't getting because it wasn't in the bid. These are a few of the sites I worked on during my employment with Bridgeport Interiors that I know I was screwed over on. I had conversations with the owner, and all that was said is that they aren't prevailing wage, even after the payroll employee had sent me a few corrected checks saying I was being paid lower

than I should've on different sites. Bridgeport interiors is a minority-owned company with almost completely minority employees, many employees who are scared to speak up for themselves and afraid they won't be able to keep their job if they complain.

So I'm speaking for them, for the minority worker that feels alone in this battle and scared to step forward of the fear of being fired. I know I probably won't ever receive the money that I sweated, bled, and worked so hard for, but I hope that something will change for all those amazing people and the families I met when I worked there.

The second company I would like to talk about is Wood Mechanix. I worked for them for about seven months in 2019 on a prevailing wage site in north Portland which, again, was low-income housing. It was run by Colas Construction which told us it was the prevailing wage. When I asked the office why everyone was getting paid prevailing wage, I was making base pay @ 16/hr as a first-term apprentice. At that time, I should've been making 65% of whatever the prevailing wage was at that time. I can't remember the exact number they were being paid, but the rest of my company was making in the high 30s on that site. Which should've at least put me in the \$20-25 range if I was met at 65%. Their excuse for not paying prevailing wage was that I was a first-term apprentice, which shouldn't have mattered. It just makes me wonder how many more people they robbed.

To this day, I have lost out on a lot of money between both companies; I worked with Bridgeport interiors for two years and Wood Mechanix for about seven months In that time; I can only imagine how much money I have lost out on. It upsets me more because of the people I know who still work for these companies and continue to have financial struggles and the unknown if they will have enough money to bring a meal home or be able to pay rent. Meanwhile, their own bosses are stealing their money and filling up their own pockets.

I have time cards of where and when I worked for some of the time I worked with Bridgeport Interiors as well as proof of them saying they won't be giving us per diem for Tillamook. I do not have paystubs besides three due to being locked out of their system upon my departure. But what I do have, I'm willing to show upon ask.

I hope one of the stories you receive can change your mind and help us pass this bill so that people can be paid the money they are deserved, as well as in the future, things like this don't continue to happen again.

Thank you for your time,
Bronwyn Christian