

**TO:** Oregon State House Committee on Business and Labor

**FR:** Chris McGhee

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

**RE:** HB 2057

---

March 8, 2023

Good morning, Chair Holvey and members of this committee.

My name is Chris McGhee; I live in Roseburg, Oregon. I'm testifying before you today on the issue of wage theft in the construction industry. I have witnessed contractor/wage theft firsthand through the misclassification of construction workers on the job site.

It is troubling that a contractor can bid on a project for a certain number of workers depending on the scope of work and then pay the worker at a lower classification. Often, they are paid at a laborer's rate, which can be \$10 – \$30 less than they should receive. Annually, a contractor that misclassifies a worker steals approximately \$30,000.00 from that worker.

There are several reasons this needs to be corrected. However, I will share just a few with you.

The first reason is that it's stealing, which is morally and ethically wrong. Secondly, misclassification tells the worker that it doesn't matter how long and hard they've worked to achieve their skillset. The third reason is it harms not only the worker but the community as a whole. Finally, workers are worthy of their pay and deserve fair compensation that aligns with the work they perform.

I am asking the committee to consider my testimony and that of others who are working to ensure that the workers are made whole.

Thank you for your time,

Chris McGhee