

TO: Oregon State House Committee on Business and Labor

FR: Evan Robichaux

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 Evan Robichaux; I live in Beaverton, Oregon. I'm testifying before you today as a victim of wage theft in the construction industry. In August of 2022, I worked in Woodburn, Oregon, at an Amazon warehouse.

I worked twelve hours a day, six days a week, drilling screens through metal framing. I was allowed one 20-minute break per shift, no lunch, and trips to the bathroom were frowned upon. I'm sure by now you've heard the stories of employees "relieving" themselves in bottles. These stories are true and more common than anyone would believe. While it was expected, there's no way to describe one's mental and emotional state before actually doing this.

Unfortunately, there was no means of eliciting change, so I quit.

It is hard to calculate the loss here, but the potential gain would have been quite a bit if I'd stayed. Mathematically speaking, I netted an average of \$1000 per week.

Some unfortunate highlights of resigning from my position included filing for food stamps, losing my health insurance, and ultimately filing for bankruptcy. The impact devastated my entire family, as I was the sole breadwinner. Today, I am still dealing with the fallout and trying to repair my horrendous credit score.

Thank you for allowing me to share a portion of my personal story with you. I hope that the entire committee will look at HB 2057 through the eyes of the many workers impacted by wage theft.

Again, thank you,

Evan Robichaux