

# NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON TRADESWOMEN'S ISSUES

TO: Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey, Joint Committee on Capital Construction

FR: Connie Ashbrook, Co-Chair, National Taskforce on Tradeswomen's Issues

RE: Support for SB 5701, Support of BOLI's Budget Requests

I am Co-Chair of the National Taskforce on Tradeswomen's Issues, an organization that works to ensure access to sustainable careers and respectful jobsites for tradeswomen. I am also the founder and for 21 year Executive Director of Oregon Tradeswomen, now retired. I am writing to you as a concerned Oregonian and advocate for the rights and well-being of working Oregonians, urging your support for the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) budget increase requests. As someone deeply connected to the issues facing working individuals in our state, especially apprentice and journey-level tradeswomen, I believe that ensuring BOLI has the necessary resources is vital to improving conditions for both workers and employers in Oregon.

The current state of BOLI's Case Management System, running on end-of-life software, poses a significant challenge to the agency's ability to carry out its mission effectively. This system serves as the primary tool for managing obligations related to wage and hour compliance and discrimination and harassment in workplaces, public spaces, and housing. Upgrading this system is a crucial step in guaranteeing the rights and well-being of working Oregonians and a level playing field for good employers.

Moreover, timely responses to public records requests are essential to maintaining transparency and accountability. BOLI's intention to procure software, similar to other agencies, will expedite and track processes required to comply with public records law. This investment will not only benefit the agency but will also ensure that Oregonians receive the information they are entitled to in a timely manner.

I strongly urge the legislature to approve BOLI's budget requests. Empowering this critically important agency with the necessary resources is a direct investment in the current and future workforce of the state.

Sincerely,



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Connie Ashbrook  
(she/her/hers)  
Co-Chair, National Taskforce on Tradeswomen's Issues  
503-381-8212  
[connie.ashbrook@outlook.com](mailto:connie.ashbrook@outlook.com)  
Portland, Oregon  
[www.tradeswomentaskforce.org](http://www.tradeswomentaskforce.org)