



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

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

FR: Karl Koenig, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council

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

Good morning Chairs Girod and Holvey and Capital Construction Committee. For the record I'm Karl Koenig, President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council. I am writing to you as a concerned 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 or employers in our state, 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, like AAother 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.

As a recent addition to the registered apprenticeship program , We 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,

/s/ Karl Koenig

Karl Koenig

President

Oregon State Fire Fighters Council

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