

Submitter: John Snider

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Transportation and Economic Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5015

Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg, and Members of the Subcommittee on
Transportation and Economic Development,

My name is John Snider and I am a proud union carpenter living in Rickreall, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to fully fund the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), an agency that is absolutely essential to protecting workers like me. I also ask you to pass SB 946 to create a sustainable funding source, so that workers never have to question whether BOLI will have the resources to stand up for us when we need it most.

As a union carpenter, I rely on the labor laws passed by this Legislature and enforced by BOLI to ensure that I am paid fairly, treated with dignity, and protected from unsafe working conditions. These laws are only as strong as the agency that enforces them, and right now, BOLI is being pushed beyond its limits.

BOLI is in crisis – claims and complaints are skyrocketing, but the agency lacks the staff and resources to keep up. That leaves workers vulnerable, forced to wait months—or even longer—just to have our rights upheld.

Consider these facts:

- The Wage and Hour Division has seen a 208% increase in claims in just the past year.
- BOLI has fewer staff in 2025 than it did in the 1980s, despite the growing workforce.
- Civil Rights complaints have risen 278% over the past decade.

This backlog isn't just an inconvenience—it's devastating for workers like me. If my paycheck is stolen, I don't have months to wait for justice. That delay could mean I can't:

- Pay my rent or mortgage
- Afford childcare
- Cover medical expenses
- Put food on the table for my family

Most working Oregonians are in the same position. We don't have the luxury of waiting while BOLI struggles with understaffing and underfunding. We need an enforcement agency that can act quickly, investigate thoroughly, and hold bad actors accountable.

BOLI is the backbone of fair labor in Oregon. But without proper funding, the laws that protect us are just empty promises. I urge you to fully fund BOLI so it can continue to uphold the rights of workers and ensure that justice is not delayed or denied for anyone in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Snider
Rickreall, Or