

Submitter: Jason Fields

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB426

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

1. Amend SB 426 to hold those accountable who illegally hire and withhold wages - not unknowing and far-removed general contractors and homeowners.

2. Fully Fund BOLI (approx. \$5M) – BOLI is responsible for handling wage claims and enforcing labor laws.

Proper funding will:

Improve response times and enforcement actions against wage theft.

Provide a streamlined process for workers to recover unpaid wages without going to court.

Ensure BOLI has adequate staffing to investigate claims and hold bad actors accountable.

3. Strengthen Construction Labor Broker Regulation – Many wage theft cases stem from unscrupulous labor brokers who act as intermediaries between contractors and workers.

To prevent this, the bill should be amended to:

Grant the Construction Contractors Board (CCB) oversight over labor contractors who work in the construction space, to ensure greater industry-specific enforcement authority.

Require licensing and bonds through CCB for labor brokers involved in the construction industry to ensure funds are available to compensate workers when labor brokers fail to pay wages.

Remove bad actors from the system by making it financially unfeasible for dishonest brokers to operate.

Jason Fields,
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