

Submitter: Nathaniel Hudson Hartman
On Behalf Of: Drivers Union OR
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Transportation and Economic Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5015

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

From: Nathaniel Hudson-Hartman; Drivers Union OR

RE: Support for a fully funded BOLI, HB 5015

2/25/2025

My name is Nathaniel Hudson-Hartman, and I writing today on behalf of Drivers Union OR, representing thousands of workers across Oregon. Our union stands in strong support of fully funding the Bureau of Labor and Industries. Our members are the backbone of the rideshare industry in Oregon, and they work hard to support their families, while providing essential mobility services to the great people all over the Beaver State, contributing to the economy, and building better communities. However, without a strong, fully funded agency to enforce labor protections, workers' rights—and everything they contribute—is at risk.

At DU OR, we've seen firsthand how disinvestment in BOLI has created an enforcement crisis. BOLI has fewer staff now than it did in the 1980s, despite significant growth in Oregon's workforce. This staffing shortage has led to unacceptable delays in investigating claims and allows wage theft, and discriminatory practices to continue unchecked. At the same time, uncertainty at the federal level—underscores the urgency for Oregon to prioritize strong state enforcement of worker protections.

When BOLI is stretched too thin, the message is clear: worker's rights are not a priority, and bad actors can exploit their workers without consequence. We cannot allow this to continue. Oregon's workers deserve an enforcement agency that is strong enough to ensure that the laws passed by the Legislature meant to protect them actually do.

Oregon has some of the strongest worker protection laws in the country, but without BOLI's enforcement, these laws are nothing more than words on paper. BOLI needs full funding to give these protections real power, and ensure no worker is left waiting months for their rights to be enforced.

Workers deserve better. Oregon deserves better. Drivers Union OR's members strongly urge you to fully fund BOLI and give the agency the resources it needs to uphold the rights of workers across the state. Thank you and many blessings.

In Unity,

Your "Brother on Wheels,"

Nathaniel E. Hudson-Hartman