

IUPAT DC5



CHANGING WORKERS' LIVES

February 26, 2025

Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) 2025-27 Budget

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 5 (IUPAT DC5), representing over 6,000 skilled workers across Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, I am writing to express our strong support for the Bureau of Labor and Industries' (BOLI) proposed budget for the 2025-27 biennium.

The proposed budget includes critical funding to reduce case backlogs, modernize wage and hour enforcement, and strengthen apprenticeship training. These investments are essential for maintaining a fair and equitable labor market in Oregon.

We are particularly encouraged by BOLI's commitment to strengthening prevailing wage enforcement. Currently, the backlog in wage and hour claims can delay workers receiving their rightful pay for months. Approval of BOLI's budget will significantly reduce the time it takes to process wage claims, ensuring that workers receive timely resolution of their claims and that bad actors are held accountable without excessive delays. This will provide stability and fairness in the construction industry, reinforcing Oregon's commitment to fair wages.

BOLI's support for apprenticeship programs is vital for developing a skilled workforce in Oregon. The proposed budget's investment in modernizing the case management system will enhance the efficiency of apprenticeship program administration, allowing for better communication and reduced bureaucracy. This will enable apprentices to complete tasks more efficiently and improve overall program outcomes.

In alignment with IUPAT DC5's political priorities, we support BOLI's initiatives to promote skill development and protect wage and hour laws. Fully funding BOLI is an investment in the future of Oregon's workforce and infrastructure.

We respectfully urge you to approve the budget for BOLI so it can continue fostering economic growth and workforce readiness in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chad Smith
Political Director
International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 5