



February 17, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Operating Engineers Local 701, representing over 3,900 heavy equipment operators, heavy-duty repairers, technical engineers, and stationary engineers throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington, I am writing to express our strong support for the Bureau of Labor and Industries' (BOLI) proposed budget for the 2025-27 biennium.

Since our founding in 1918, Local 701 has been instrumental in building and maintaining Oregon's critical infrastructure. From the construction of dams that created low-cost clean energy to major manufacturing facilities creating family wage jobs, to the roads, bridges and ports that move those goods to market--Our members have consistently contributed to the state's development over time and its economic position.

BOLI's efforts to protect workers' rights, advance employment opportunities, and ensure access to fair workplaces aligns closely with our union's objectives. The proposed budget includes critical funding to reduce case backlogs, modernize wage and hour enforcement, and strengthen apprenticeship training, which is particularly important for workers from disadvantaged communities--women, people of color, veterans, and disabled Oregonians. These investments directly benefit workers and ensure they are treated fairly in their workplaces.

BOLI's support for elevating standards for apprenticeship programs is essential for developing a skilled workforce in Oregon and empowering individuals with skills they will take with them to every employer. Our Heavy Equipment Operator Training School in Canby has benefited from such initiatives, providing extensive equipment training and safety classes to nearly 1,500 journeymen and over 130 apprentices.

We also recognize the importance of promoting diversity and inclusion within our workforce. BOLI's efforts to ensure equitable labor practices contribute to creating opportunities for underrepresented groups, including women, in the construction industry.

In alignment with the International Union of Operating Engineers' legislative priorities, we support BOLI's initiatives to promote skill development and enhancement, protect prevailing wages, and ensure worker safety.

Page 2  
February 17, 2025  
Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee

We respectfully urge you to approve the budget for BOLI so it can continue fostering economic growth and workforce readiness in Oregon. Fully funding BOLI is an investment in the future of our state's workforce and infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Anderson  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary  
Operating Engineers Local 701