

Submitter: Roberto Bocanegra
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB426

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Roberto Bovangera, and I am writing to support SB 426 strongly. As a construction worker in Oregon, I have witnessed how wage theft and labor exploitation drag down wages, hurt our communities, and make the construction industry so unappealing that it's turning away young people from careers in the trades.

Numerous national studies have shown that the construction industry, particularly in the residential sector, is a hotspot for abuse and exploitation. Under-the-table fraud and misclassification in construction cost the state over \$112 million each year— money that could go toward supporting essential public services like schools, roads, and public safety.

If the State of Oregon is serious about protecting workers and ending wage theft, we need to support SB 426, which will hold all market participants accountable for wage theft up and down the contracting chain.

We can't keep relying on the government to fix this problem alone. The industry must take responsibility and support contractors who treat their workers fairly. Reducing access to justice is not how to combat wage theft; paying wages is.

PROTECT OUR WORKERS, PROTECT OUR FAMILIES, AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES.