



JOINT COUNCIL OF TEAMSTERS NO. 37

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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

FR: Steve Konopa, Principal Officer, Teamsters Local 305 / Director of Legislative Affairs
JC 37 Teamsters

RE: Support for a fully funded BOLI, HB 5015

Date 2/27/2025

My name is Steve Konopa, and I am writing today on behalf of workers who belong to Teamsters Joint Council 37, representing over 20,000 workers across Oregon. Our union stands in strong support of fully funding the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Our members are the backbone of many industries in Oregon, and they work hard to support their families, contribute to the economy, and build better communities. However, without a strong, fully funded BOLI agency to enforce labor protections, workers' rights and everything else they contribute puts all at risk.

At Joint Council 37, 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 to be 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, 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. [Joint Council 37 Teamsters] strongly urge you to fully fund BOLI and give the agency the resources it needs to uphold the rights of workers across the state. Please support HB 5015.

Thank you,

Steve Konopa JC 37 Teamsters / Director of Legislative Affairs

1872 N.E. 162nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97230

Phone 503-251-2337 Fax 503-251-2303