

Submitter: Bill Bradley
On Behalf Of: ATU 757
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Transportation and Economic Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5015

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

FR: Bill Bradley, Executive Board Officer, Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 757

RE: Support for a fully funded BOLI, HB 5015

My name is Bill Bradley, and I serve as an Executive Board Officer for the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 757. We represent 5,500 members in the public transit and school bus sectors across the state of Oregon.

I write to you today to emphasize the importance of fully funding the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). This agency plays a pivotal role in investigating workplace violations in a timely manner, ensuring that our members' issues are heard and adjudicated without undue delay. Unfortunately, at some of the employers where we represent workers, these violations can go unaddressed for many months, even years. This delay not only harms workers' morale and job satisfaction but also compromises their ability to focus on providing critical services to the citizens of Oregon. Swift and effective enforcement of labor laws, facilitated by an adequately funded BOLI, fosters a more equitable and stable workplace. When issues are resolved in a timely fashion, our members can concentrate on the vital tasks of safely operating public transit and providing reliable school bus services—functions that directly impact the well-being and daily lives of Oregon residents.

Over the past several years, Oregon has demonstrated a deep commitment to protecting workers by passing significant worker protection legislation. However, without proper funding of BOLI, these important protections cannot be fully realized by every Oregonian. We must invest in BOLI so that it has the capacity to enforce existing laws effectively and uphold the rights our state has worked so hard to secure. Additionally, BOLI must be fully funded to continue and grow its efforts in workforce development, particularly through apprenticeships, which create vital career pathways for Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. I urge you to support full funding for BOLI to protect workers' rights, improve morale, and ensure that the hardworking men and women of Oregon can continue serving our communities effectively and with peace of mind.

Respectfully,
Bill Bradley