

Submitter: Kara Crisp
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB426

Oregon's Senate Bill 426 (SB 426) is a slap in the face to property owners. If passed, it would make owners financially responsible for a contractor's unpaid wages—even if they already paid the contractor in full!

This bill punishes the wrong people. Instead of holding shady contractors accountable, it forces owners to pay twice or face legal action. That's not worker protection—it's legalized theft.

If wage theft is a problem (and it is), Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) should do its job—not dump the burden onto property owners.

SB 426 is unfair, unreasonable, and completely unacceptable. Lawmakers need to fix enforcement, not punish honest business owners.

?? What do you think? Should property owners be forced to cover a contractor's unpaid wages? Let's talk! ??

You said:

Perfect. Thank you!

ChatGPT said:

You're very welcome! ?? Glad it hit the mark. Let me know if you need anything else—I'm always happy to help! ????

You said:

Would you please now write a testimony **STRONGLY** against SB 426 for a public comment to be included in the Oregon state legislature comment section.

ChatGPT said:

Testimony Opposing Oregon Senate Bill 426

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 426 (SB 426)—a deeply flawed and unfair proposal that would place an unjust financial burden on property owners. This bill does nothing to fix the issue of wage theft in the construction industry; instead, it punishes innocent owners who have already paid their contractors in full.

SB 426 places unfair financial liability on property owners, making property owners jointly liable for a contractor's failure to pay workers—even if the owner has already fulfilled their financial obligations to the contractor. This is outrageous. It forces owners to pay twice: once to the contractor and again when workers seek restitution for unpaid wages.

If a contractor mismanages funds or absconds with workers' wages, that is the contractor's wrongdoing—not the property owner's. This bill shifts blame away from the bad actors and places it on those who have done nothing wrong. How is this fair?

Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) exists to enforce wage laws and hold bad employers accountable. If wage theft is a persistent problem, then BOLI should be strengthened, not bypassed. Transferring enforcement duties onto property owners is an abdication of the state's responsibility to uphold labor laws.

SB 426 will create widespread financial uncertainty in the construction industry:

- Property owners will be hesitant to hire contractors, fearing financial risk.
- Project costs will increase as owners take extreme measures to protect themselves.
- Contractors who follow the law will suffer, as owners delay payments to avoid liability.
- This bill does not protect workers—it creates chaos.

Vote NO on SB 426. Holding innocent property owners liable for a contractor's wrongdoing is unjust, unwise, and legally questionable. If lawmakers want to prevent wage theft, they should strengthen enforcement against bad contractors—not punish the very people who are following the rules.

I urge you to oppose SB 426 and find a solution that actually addresses the root of the problem.

Respectfully,

Kara Crisp, Resident of Eugene, Oregon