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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB426

As usual, Oregon legislature wants to make innocent people responsible for offenses committed by people they never met against other people they never met. It's the modern way of politics.

If you hire a contractor to work on your property, and their subcontractors, or THEIR subcontractors stiff employees, or someone you never met claims they did, YOU are responsible, even if you tried to verify the workers were paid. In this time where Oregon wants to make it illegal to question someone's ID if they may not be legally here, employment and residence records can't easily be verified, especially by a non-business owner whose only crime is seeking repairs to their property. So all those "protections" in Section 3 are meaningless if someone down the chain lies. It says so right there in the bill. Will Oregon prosecute the crooks or help you get your money back? No, Oregon will help the people who say they weren't paid shake you down for the payment. But there is nothing here to guarantee Oregon will recover your money or get involved enough to even see if the claims of non-payment are true. Oregon legislature will let the owner who has already paid once for services pay twice, then pay a third time for a lawyer to hunt down resources of the subcontractor to regain their lost money. What is the point of doing business in an environment like that?

When examining legislation, ignore grand promises of "justice" and look for the behaviors the legislation incentivizes. What does this legislation incentivize? The workaround for all these potential problems is to hire union shops, who are specifically excluded from entities whose ex-employees can sue you. It says so right there.