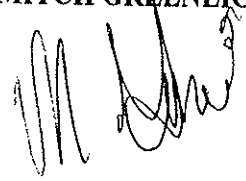


**Oregon Center for Christian Voices**  
PO Box 11567, Portland OR 97211

June 12, 2013

**FROM THE DESK OF  
REP. MITCH GREENLICK**



Members of the House of Representatives  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Salem, Oregon

HB 2977 B-Engrossed addresses wage theft in the construction industry. Oregon Center for Christian Voices (OCCV) supports the passage of this important bill, and we urge you to vote in favor.

OCCV is a faith-based non-profit organization seeking to activate Christians on issues of economic and social justice. We believe Scripture is clear that God's intended role for government is to assure that poor and marginalized people are cared for, and that all have opportunity to flourish. For this reason, OCCV joined with over 30 other groups in the Oregon Coalition to Stop Wage Theft, to advocate for laws that address this critical issue.

Scripture says, "You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers...You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are poor and their livelihood depends on them." (Deuteronomy 24:14-15) We believe HB 2977 is consistent with that scriptural mandate. By requiring construction labor brokers to get a license and post a bond, the bill assures that if workers are not paid for their labor, they will have opportunity to recover the stolen wages through the bond.

Workers need stronger legal tools to collect unpaid wages from abusive employers. We see this law as consistent with the responsibility we have as citizens and government to "...not turn aside the needy from justice, or rob the poor of their right..." (Isaiah 10:1-2) Again, OCCV urges you to vote in favor of HB 2977 B Engrossed. It will address and reduce wage theft in an industry and among labor brokers where it is an identifiable problem, and one that particularly affects low wage workers who are already struggling to provide for their families.

Respectfully,

Karen Nettler, Board Chair  
Oregon Center for Christian Voices, [www.occv.org](http://www.occv.org)  
503-222-2072