



812 SW Washington, Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97205 • (503) 525-8454 • www.nwjp.org

June 12, 2013

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

Re: HB 2977 B Engrossed

*From the desk of  
State Representative  
Brad Witt  
HD #31  
(Brad Witt)*

Dear Representatives:

HB 2977 B Engrossed is set for House Floor vote on June 13, 2013. It passed out of the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee with a do pass recommendation unanimously on June 4, 2013. On June 6th the Full Ways and Means Committee passed the bill with a do pass recommendation on a bi-partisan vote. The vote was 18 to 6 in favor of the bill with 2 Democrats absent. We urge you to vote for this bill.

HB 2977 B attacks wage theft in the construction industry where it is particularly prevalent among labor brokers, those who provide labor only. This is similar to a problem that existed with farm labor brokers and that has been addressed by the Farm Labor Contractor statute. Accordingly, HB 2977 B folds construction labor brokers into the time proven Farm Labor Contractor statute.

HB 2977 B tackles the problem of this underground economy by requiring construction labor brokers to get a license and post a bond. Traditional construction contractors are exempt. The licensing requirement will educate labor brokers as to their employer responsibilities. Workers who are not paid can recover their wages through the bond.

**This bill is a compromise between business interest who opposed the original bill and worker advocates.**

HB 2977 B has been well vetted and is the product of compromise. We urge you to support it.

Respectfully,

D. Michael Dale  
Executive Director