



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

June 17, 2013

Members of the Senate
Oregon Senate
Salem, Oregon

Re: HB 2977 B Engrossed

Dear Senators:

HB 2977 B Engrossed passed the House on June 13, 2013. It previously passed out of the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee with a unanimous do pass recommendation 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 of 18 to 6 with 2 Democrats absent. We urge you to vote for this bill.

HB 2977 B addresses nonpayment of wages in the construction industry, where theft of wages is particularly prevalent among labor brokers, i.e., those who provide labor only. This is similar to a problem that existed in the past with farm labor contractors and that has been successfully addressed by the Farm Labor Contractor Registration statute. Accordingly, HB 2977 B folds construction labor brokers into the time-proven Farm Labor Contractor Registration 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 and established staffing agencies who are complying with law 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 interests who opposed the original bill and worker advocates.

HB 2977 B has been well-vetted and is the solution to which all affected parties have agreed. We urge you to support it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Michael Dale" with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. Michael Dale
Executive Director

From the Desk of Senator Lee Beyer