



February 9, 2018

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**OBI Testimony in Opposition to HB 4154**

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Chair Holvey and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

Thank you for providing Oregon Business & Industry (OBI) the opportunity testimony for the House Committee on Business and Labor regarding HB 4154.

OBI is Oregon's most comprehensive business association representing approximately 1,600 businesses that employ nearly 330,000 people.

OBI takes pride in working with all stakeholders to refine language in a collaborative approach. In 2016, OBI worked with stakeholders to address wage theft in SB 1587. This measure directed BOLI to use money from the employer-funded Wage Security Fund to fund further enforcement against wage theft.

Nobody disagrees that employers who steal from their workers should not be sanctioned, and none of us disagree that when employees are cheated in this manner, that the impact on those employees can be devastating.

Where we differ is in our view of the problem and addressing that problem. The employers who are cheating their employees of their wages are currently breaking the law. To shift liability to the general contractor, will not address the problem before us. It will not make the bad actors any less willing to break the law. For this reason, we oppose HB 4154.

This issue is complex and deserves a more comprehensive discussion. We simply do not have the time in a short session to review what is in current law and deal with the overarching issue the legislation proposes to address. OBI asks the committee to wait until we have time to review the root of the problem and work with stakeholders to find a collaborative solution that addresses the bad actors instead of shifting liability.