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TO: Chair Taylor
Vice-Chair Knopp
Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

FR: Alma Raya, Legislative Specialist, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Oregon AFL-CIO Support for SB 370

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents over 300,000 working people across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. SB 370 would provide critical protections for immigrant workers. SB 370 provides immigrant workers with notification ahead of I-9 audits. We believe workers should have the right to know when federal agents are accessing their information within a reasonable timeline, as it could have significant impact to their livelihoods.

Workers have lived in fear of immigration raids for decades, and have recently had that same uncertainty heightened, especially after recent raids in Woodburn.¹ Immigrant workers have demonstrated the value they bring to our state and how essential their labor is to our economy. There is currently a shortage of workers in industries historically dominated by immigrants. It is incumbent upon us to ensure employers know what to do when federal agents are seeking to audit their workforce.

Oregon's economy is only strengthened by the work immigrants bring to our state. These workers pick our food from the valley, they process our food in Oregon's food processing plants, they harvest our Christmas trees and ensure our families are cared for. We can't have a state that works without immigrant workers. Oregon's unions support SB 370 because all workers deserve basic protections and SB 370 is much needed update to employment protections for undocumented workers. We respectfully request your support for SB 370.

¹ https://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/2017/04/woodburn_taught_latinos_to_dre.html