

April 1, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Manning and Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

Associated General Contractors – Oregon Columbia Chapter represents a broad cross-section of the commercial construction industry, including open shop and union, rural and metro, highway and building contractors. Most of our members are small, homegrown businesses.

We support the proposed budget for the Bureau of Labor and Industries in HB 5516. Our industry interacts closely with BOLI, given their oversight of prevailing wage law and labor laws. There are three particular areas of BOLI's budget that we'd like to speak to:

*Increased funding for technical assistance:* BOLI's technical assistance is critical for our members, especially those who are small businesses or doing prevailing wage work. For small businesses. BOLI's technical assistance helps contractors comply with various legal requirements for employers. Without this assistance, these small businesses would likely be required to hire an attorney to help them with compliance. For contractors engaged in prevailing wage work, BOLI's technical assistance helps contractors comply with the complicated regulations that come with performing public work.

*Website Upgrade:* For contractors, it is essential that they are able to access information from the BOLI website quickly and efficiently. The website upgrade would help our members to get the information they need when they need it.

*Eastern Oregon Apprenticeship/Business TA Representative:* Given the workforce shortage in the construction industry, apprenticeships are critical to growing our workforce. This is even more true in the rural parts of Eastern Oregon. Having this apprenticeship representative in Eastern Oregon would help our members to grow their apprenticeship programs and help to increase the prevalence of apprenticeships in the more rural areas of our state.

It is for these reasons that we urge your support of HB 5516. For additional information, please contact John Rakowitz (503) 317-1781 or Kirsten Adams (503) 990-2262.

Best Regards,

John Rakowitz & Kirsten Adams



***The Voice & Choice of the Construction Industry!***

[@AGCOreCol](https://twitter.com/AGCOreCol) • [agcorecol](https://www.instagram.com/agcorecol)

**2019 OFFICERS**

**Sandy Trainor**  
*President*

**Russ Batzer**  
*First*

*Vice President*

**Yohn Baldwin**  
*Second*

*Vice President*

**Scott Williams**  
*Secretary*

**Joe McDonnell**  
*Treasurer*

**Cameron Foroud**  
*Immediate*

*Past President*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Mike Salsgiver**