

April 3, 2019

Senator James Manning Jr, Co-Chair Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development Oregon Legislative Assembly 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 5516, Bureau of Labor and Industries 19-21 Budget Request

Dear Co-Chairs Manning and Gomberg and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for SB 5516 on behalf of PGE. We believe the investment proposals laid out by BOLI will be of great benefit to both employees and employers in Oregon and focus on three key values - transparency, education and responsiveness. From an employer's perspective, we urge the committee's support of the proposal for the following reasons:

- (1) BOLI's Business Technical Assistance Program is recognized as a core division within the agency. Technical assistance for employers of all sizes will help keep them up to date on employment law changes and in turn, better prepare employers to educate their employees.
- (2) It rids the agency of being forced to sell obsolete paper handbooks as a necessary funding mechanism, bringing BOLI into the modern day way of doing business.
- (3) BOLI's website would be updated with a user-friendly site that would make it easier for employers to access the information they need when they need it and to educate their staff and employees on the status of the law.
- (4) Finally, the proposal recognizes BOLI's *statewide* mission by funding a position in Eastern Oregon to better meet the needs of rural employers and employees. PGE has generating assets and employees in several rural Oregon counties and supports this effort.

We appreciate Commissioner Hoyle's leadership and BOLI's quest to improve transparency, education and responsiveness.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Sania Radcliffe

Government Affairs and Environmental Policy Director