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

FR: Lindsey Franklin, Legislative Staff, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Support for HB 3193

My name is Lindsey Franklin, representing the over 300,000 working Oregonians of the Oregon AFL-CIO. We consider ourselves a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3193.

When we go to work each day, we all expect to be paid for that work and paid in a timely manner. Unfortunately, for some Oregonians working in the construction industry, they are fighting to be paid the wages they earned even after BOLI has made a determination in the favor of the worker.

Despite making up only 5.5% of Oregon's non-farm workforce, non-prevailing wage (non-PWR) claims from the construction made up almost 9% of the total BOLI claims. We know that the vast majority of Oregon construction business' are operating in good faith. In fact, just 22% of BOLI's non-PWR claims are from repeat offenders and they also make up 57% of the total dollar amount in claims.

For those repeat offenders who are bad actors, there needs to be accountability. A company that steals from workers cannot be rewarded with the ability to continue to do work in our state while those same workers are facing a massive financial burden. This bill would directly address this issue by aligning the complaint process through BOLI with the Construction Contractors Board which will enable workers to access their owed wages through the employers' bond. Additionally, for those business' that still refuse to pay more than 60 days after a final determination from BOLI, will have their license suspended.

HB 3193 is a common sense approach to a problem that is unduly burdening the workers who have literally built our state. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill and I deeply urge your aye vote.