

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
From: Ibrahim Coulibaly
Date: March 8, 2023
RE: Support for SB 5515 BOLI Budget

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and members of the subcommittee,

My name is Ibrahim Coulibaly, and **I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 5515 relating to the BOLI budget for 2023-2025.** BOLI is an important resource for workers, businesses and industries, especially now during a time of unprecedented demand for highly skilled labor and economic growth.

I am a resident of Eugene, Oregon and a constituent in House District 6 and Senate District 4. I am a union member of SEIU Local 503 and I serve in various roles, including President of the BOLI Sublocal, Chair of the Central Table Bargaining team, CAPE Council President, Chair of the Afram Caucus, and a member of Civil and Human Rights Committee.

Oregon laws protect Oregonians' right to work, find housing, and be in our state free from discrimination. At BOLI, I *work as an Investigator with the Civil Rights Division in the Fair Housing Unit.* The division provides guidance to the public regarding state and federal civil rights law. BOLI investigators engage regularly with stakeholders from the employer and worker communities to ensure that civil rights are upheld.

I have seen first-hand what our work does for Oregon. The agency receives around 44,000 calls. That is 44,000 calls to you, our legislators, because BOLI is your tool to help people. These are not only calls but they are stories. Oregonians will often call the line in distress, sometimes in tears, because something has gone wrong. This requires investigators to act as social workers because we are the last resort, the last opportunity to correct a wrong. The workload is taking a toll on our team. The Civil Rights Division expects a higher caseload once the agency revamps the website and the intake system. Our unit needs additional staff to meet the demand of workers and Oregonians.

In closing, I ask Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and members of the committee to support SB 5515 and fully fund BOLI to ensure Oregonians have access to good paying jobs and safe working conditions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Ibrahim Coulibaly, SEIU Local 503