

**TO:** Oregon State House Committee on Business and Labor

**FR:** David Enequiz, Portland, Oregon

**ATTN:** Chairman Holvey, Vice-Chairs Elmer, and Sosa

**RE:** HB 2057

---

March 8, 2023

Good morning, Chair Holvey and members of this committee.

My name is David L Enequiz. I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm testifying before you today as a victim of wage theft in the construction industry. In the summer of 2019, I worked on an apartment complex for IBI construction in Beaverton, Oregon.

I worked eight-hour days from Monday to Saturday. We were required to participate in morning meetings and stretches prior to clocking in and setting up our work site. If we hadn't completed cleaning by the end of the 8-hour shift, we were instructed to clock out and would have to complete work tasks while off the clock. They would reprimand us for clocking back in too early from lunch because they didn't want to get into trouble for not giving us our thirty-minute lunch break. However, they wouldn't pay us for a lunch break if we accidentally clocked back in late.

At the time, I didn't do anything because I didn't think the amount of money would be worth the legal troubles; in total, I estimate it was about \$400 worth of stolen minutes over the course of three months.

Not being fully compensated for the work I performed felt like a slap in the face, as if my time wasn't worth my presence, but I was forced to remain. I was forced to remain because I needed to work to survive. And over the course of years, this would amount to the theft of thousands of dollars, which I could have used for rent or medical expenses.

Oregon must improve and make things right for working families! Workers must believe and feel safe to come forward so that their money is not slowly leached away from them.

Thank you for your time,

David Enequiz