

Submitter: Daniel Hutchins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB2057

Chair Holvey and Members of the committee, my name is Daniel Hutchins. I am the Labor Relations Representative for Western Partitions Inc. (WPI). WPI is a specialty Interior/Exterior Systems construction company based in Wilsonville, Oregon with an additional office in Eugene and ten additional offices across the continental United States.

We at WPI work hard to assure that we pay every employee properly, assure that their wages, benefits and appropriate taxes are paid on time and in full for every hour worked by our employees. That said, there are some second and third tier subcontractors in our industry that do not concern themselves with paying taxes or their employees.

Some of those dishonest and cheating contractors hire employees for cash under the table thus avoiding their tax burden. Even worse, they knowingly short their employees' paychecks and fire them when they complain. These dishonorable practices can be summed up to "Wage theft". This is a serious issue in the construction industry and undermines the ability for law abiding contractors to compete for future work.

Legislation like HB 2057 could help hold disreputable contractors accountable to the rules that govern us. Employees need to be protected from wage theft and this legislation can reinforce the protections currently in place in the State of Oregon.