

March 9, 2023

TO: House Committee on Business and Labor

FR: Chris McGhee

RE: HB 2057

Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Chris McGhee, and I reside in Roseburg, Oregon. As a witness of contractor wage theft in the form of misclassification of construction workers on the job site, I am here today to provide my testimony.

I have seen this first hand, and it is very troubling that a contractor will bid on a project for X amount of carpenters and then pay them at a lower classification just to pay lower wages. An example of this is paying them a laborer wage. This is so wrong for many reasons, like the number one reason it's stealing!

Then you have a carpenter that has a skill set that carpenter has worked hard over time to achieve, and not to get paid the wage for their skilled work that they are doing is disappointing. The third reason is the money that the contractor is stealing off their workers' backs, which also results in a financial loss to the carpenter, their families, and the community.

Many will not support this legislation and would instead turn a blind eye. Some may even claim, "Well, I've never seen or experienced it, so it doesn't affect me, so it doesn't matter." The reality is that we are all affected... If workers are unable to pay their rent due to the contractor's theft of their hard-earned money, they may become homeless. Oregon is already struggling to provide affordable housing and control its homelessness crisis... Taking a stand for working families by supporting this bill is the correct course of action!

If you continue to believe that it only affects a small number of people and that the amount of money lost is minimal, you are mistaken. Incorrectly classifying a carpenter as a laborer costs the employee approximately \$30,000 per year.

Thank you for your time in reading this,
Chris McGhee