

March 8, 2023

TO: House Committee on Business and Labor

FR: Jamie Corban, Northwest Carpenters Union Organizer

RE: HB 2057

Good morning, Chair Holvey and the Board,

My name is Jamie Corban, and I am an Organizer for the Northwest Carpenters Union; during my time as an Organizer, I've worked with many construction workers to help them get their money back from contractors that haven't paid them for work but getting their money back doesn't always happen. There are various reasons why they don't get their money, such as the subcontractor hiring 3rd or 4th tiered subcontractors that don't pay, the subcontractor taking no responsibility because they are not their employees, the process taking too long, and the employee giving up, or a government agency finds in favor of the employee getting paid and the subcontractor(s) never pay it.

House Bill 2057 would help the workers get the money that they have already worked for back by eliminating barriers and putting the responsibility and accountability in the hands of the General Contractors or the Construction Manager(s) of the projects, the people that have the time, money, and resources to fight to get their money back while still being able to maintain working and providing for their families.

House Bill 2057 will also provide more commitment by the General Contractors/Construction Managers to choose more carefully who they are hiring and give minority-owned contractors that provide a safe and profitable work environment to the employees a chance at being awarded the work while giving back to the communities that many of these workers live in.

So, I'll ask you to be the change with house bill 2057 to help the workers who continue to help build our state get the money they are owed back without jumping through hoops, battling contractors, or giving up never getting paid.

Thank you,
Jamie Corban