

March 10, 2023

RE: Bureau of Labor and Industries Budget – SB 5515

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

Associated General Contractors – Oregon Columbia Chapter represents a broad cross-section of the commercial construction industry, including open shop and union, rural and metro, highway and building contractors. Most of our members are small, homegrown businesses.

We support the proposed budget for the Bureau of Labor and Industries in SB 5515. Our industry interacts closely with BOLI, given their oversight of prevailing wage law and labor laws. There are two particular areas of BOLI's budget that we'd like to speak to:

Provide funding for the Administrative Law Officer: Our member companies appreciate the opportunity to receive business assistance from BOLI, to help them to comply with employment related laws and rules. With the expansion of employment related legislation enacted by the Legislature over the past several years, the volume of administrative law matters has increased. Assistance from BOLI on how to navigate new requirements is helpful to ensure that our members know how to comply.

Provide resources for business assistance in Eastern Oregon: We urge the addition of resources to retain business assistance in Eastern Oregon. This position is an important resource to have available for members of our industry in Eastern Oregon for technical assistance. Also, having this apprenticeship representative in Eastern Oregon can also help our members to grow their apprenticeship programs and help to increase the prevalence of apprenticeships in the more rural areas of our state.

It is for these reasons that we urge your support of SB 5515. We appreciate all the work BOLI does to help employers comply with the law and we urge continued funding to allow that assistance to continue.

Best Regards,

Kirsten Adams
Director and Counsel – Policy and Public Affairs

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