



March 5, 2024

TO: Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction

FR: Derek Sangston, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Support for BOLI Budget Ask in SB 5701

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, members of the Joint Subcommittee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction.

Oregon Business & Industry (OBI) is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Bureau of Labor and Industries' (BOLI) budget requests for the 2024 session. The state's business community relies upon the agency to function at a high level in enforcing Oregon's employment and anti-discrimination laws. As conscientious employers, OBI's members support the efforts of the agency to hold wrongdoers responsible and protect workers' rights. OBI appreciates the work the agency has done in recent years to improve services to both businesses and workers.

The important budget requests BOLI has made for the 2024 session include those that will help it migrate away from its obsolete case management system and acquire software that will allow staff to produce public records efficiently. The agency also has asked to use one-time ARPA funds to create a limited-duration position to improve the certification process for state and federal apprenticeship programs.

OBI believes each expenditure will make the agency more efficient and better able to perform its core functions for Oregon's businesses and workers. BOLI not only provides businesses with guidance on how to comply with new employment laws, but it also establishes apprenticeship programs and works to hold bad actors responsible. By freeing up staff time, the funds earmarked for BOLI in SB 5701 are an important step in ensuring BOLI can efficiently perform those tasks.

For those reasons, OBI urges your support of SB 5701. Thank you for your consideration.

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