



March 6th, 2024

TO: Joint Committee on Capital Construction
FR: Liz Marquez Gutierrez, PCUN
RE: SB 5701-2, BOLI Investments Support

Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod and Members of the Subcommittee on Capitol Construction,

My name is Liz Marquez Gutierrez, I am the Policy Manager at PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. On behalf of our members, I am writing in support of SB 5701-2, BOLI's budget investments.

At PCUN, we work to empower farmworkers and Latinx working families to improve their working conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy. The majority of our members live and work in the Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon's vibrant agricultural region. PCUN was founded by 80 farmworkers to fight against exploitation at work and the effects that come with that. Since then, our members have fought to ensure that important victories such as raising the minimum wage, earned sick leave, and safe working conditions, protect all of Oregon's working families, including farmworkers. These policies are crucial to building an economy that works for everyone, not just special interests.

We support SB 5701-2 because we know investments to BOLI's budget are critical to enforce our labor laws and improve conditions for workers in Oregon. The current state of BOLI's Case Management System, running on end-of-life software, poses a significant challenge to the agency's ability to carry out its mission effectively. This system serves as the primary tool for managing obligations related to wage and hour compliance and discrimination and harassment in workplaces, public spaces, and housing. Upgrading this system is a crucial step in guaranteeing the rights and well-being of working Oregonians. Additionally, BOLI's request to help improve their software efficiencies will help ensure public records requests can be delivered in a timely manner.

Ensuring BOLI has resources to enforce our state labor laws is critical to workers and our economy as whole. PCUN respectfully requests the legislature to approve the BOLI investments of SB 5701-2.

Liz Marquez Gutierrez
Policy Manager
PCUN