

**My name is Dana MacAuley and I am a member of Local 737 Laborers union I am here to speak in support of the Legislature providing more adequate funding to the Bureau of Labor and Industries so that this vital agency has the resources needed to more effectively carry out its core mission to safeguard workers rights and enforce employment laws that protect Oregonians on the job.**

**Without adequate funding, BOLI could be forced to dismiss hundreds, if not thousands, of cases due to capacity constraints, leaving workers with little recourse and allowing repeat offenders who make wage theft their business model to operate without accountability.**

**Without the funding that BOLI has requested this session, we risk an economy where the bad actors run amuck and workers lacking the vital protection that the law is supposed to afford them.**

**Since February 1, 2024 62% of complainants say they are experiencing economic hardship related to their case. 640 complainants say they are experiencing housing insecurity. 385 complainants say they are struggling with medical bills and 638 complainants say they are struggling with food expenses**

**BOLI has shared that they've seen a decrease in wage and hour claims above the salary threshold, which signals that workers aren't seeing a point in even going to them anymore because they have been turning cases away.**

**When your paycheck is short or stolen, Oregonians can't afford to wait 12 to 18 months for the state to investigate.**

**Every day expenses such as rent, groceries, day care, don't simply stop while workers wait for BOLI to resolve their case.**

**But BOLI doesn't have enough staff to handle the growing number of wage complaints, up over 200% in the past 4 years, while as you know their staff surely hasn't grown at that rate.**

**With additional funding this Legislation session, BOLI can help more workers stay in their homes and ensure that hard working Oregonians can put food on their table.**

**LIUNA members strongly urge your support in ensuring that BOLI has the resources it needs for prioritizing more sufficient enforcement of worker protections in our state.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

