

To: House Committee on Labor & Workforce Development
From: Jeff Gritz, Bus. Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Oregon & S. Idaho District Council of Laborers
RE: HB 4027-1 / SB 1506-1, Support for BOLI Budget Bill
Date: Feb 3, 2026

I am writing on behalf of LIUNA, representing over 4,000 members across the state of Oregon who work in the construction industry as Laborers, as well as public sector workers serving in local governments and municipalities throughout the region. Our Union stands in staunch support of sustainable funding for the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to support both new and existing positions.

LIUNA members are both the backbone of the construction industry in Oregon and provide vital front-line public services, working hard every day to support their families, contribute to the economy, and support thriving communities. The work that LIUNA members perform depends on having a strong, fully funded state agency to enforce labor protections, uphold workers' rights and ensure oversight of critical standards throughout Oregon's industries and work settings.

Without a funding guarantee, BOLI staff currently tasked with critical functions like reducing the wage & hour backlog will start to look for alternative employment, constraining the Bureau's ability to maintain the trajectory of eliminating accumulated investigative cases by mid-2029. BOLI was previously facing an unprecedented crisis in their inability to adequately enforce key employment laws and protect Oregonians from discrimination, harassment, and wage theft. Returning to BOLI's previous underfunding after the 2027-29 biennium would lead to unacceptable delays in investigating claims and allow for pernicious issues such as wage theft and discriminatory practices in workplaces to persist without the assurance of timely response and recourse for workers exercising their rights under the law.

If BOLI does not achieve urgently needed stable funding at this time, the agency simply cannot give Oregon's strong worker protection laws the real capacity and vital resources that are necessary to safeguard our workers from otherwise waiting months for their rights to be enforced.

Workers deserve better. Oregon deserves better. LIUNA is an important stakeholder in the success of the Bureau of Labor & Industries as an agency. Therefore, we believe that BOLI's proposed sustainable funding model is crucial to workers and businesses in Oregon. We support the consensus-driven solutions in these bills, and believe they are viable mechanisms that can provide stable, predictable funding for BOLI.

LIUNA members strongly urge you to support HB 4027-1 / SB 1506-1 to provide BOLI with the resources it needs for prioritizing strong state enforcement of worker protections.

Thank you,



Jeff Gritz, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Oregon & Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers