



TO: Chair Grayber, House Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
FROM: Madison Walters, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
DATE: February 5th, 2026

SUPPORT for HB 4027-1

Good afternoon Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Muñoz and Scharf, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 4027-1. My name is Madison Walters, and I am a political liaison and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, which is the largest private sector labor union in Oregon. We represent thousands of workers in the grocery, retail, manufacturing, and healthcare sectors. We strongly support a sustainable funding structure for Oregon BOLI, which performs critical work enforcing laws and regulations protecting workers.

In the 2025 session, UFCW 555 testified in support of BOLI's budget request, which allowed them to secure the funds to modernize, expand their staff, and address historic backlogs. Now, we strongly encourage the legislature to continue those critical investments with a long-term sustainable funding plan. We are grateful to the workgroup that has looked comprehensively at funding mechanisms and identified a strong proposal that allows BOLI to continue their vital work.

A well-funded BOLI means an equal playing field for employers who are just trying to follow the law. And without a funding guarantee, BOLI staff tasked with critical functions like reducing the backlog will start to look for alternate employment – inhibiting the Bureau's ability to maintain their trajectory of eliminating the backlog of wage and hour claims.

We often hear the cry: "We need to enforce the laws we already have on the books," and we agree. Laws have no weight unless the Legislature is prepared to resource their enforcement. Oregonians can't be expected to wait years to have their rights on the job enforced – HB 4027-1 starts to finally put BOLI on the path to sustainable

investment so they can deliver timely services to Oregonians – workers and employers alike.

We strongly urge your “aye” vote.

Sincerely,

Madison Walters

Political Liaison
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555



UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

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