

Submitter: John Snider
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB426

Senator Frank Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is John Snider and I have worked as a carpenter in Oregon for 28 years. I am writing in strong SUPPORT of SB 426 because I have seen firsthand the damage that wage theft does—not just to workers like me, but to our families and communities.

Wage theft isn't just numbers on a spreadsheet. It's missed rent payments, empty refrigerators, and families struggling to get by while dishonest contractors pocket money that rightfully belongs to the people who build our cities. I've watched good, hardworking people put in long hours on job sites only to find out their paychecks are short or never come at all. Some are misclassified as independent contractors, stripped of the protections and benefits they should be receiving. Others are forced to work off the books, afraid to speak up for fear of losing their jobs.

This isn't just an issue for workers—it's an issue for our entire state. Fraud and misclassification in the construction industry are costing Oregon over \$112 million every year—money that should be going toward schools, roads, and public services. It also undercuts honest contractors who play by the rules, making it harder for them to compete and grow their businesses.

SB 426 is a critical step in the right direction. It holds everyone in the contracting chain accountable, ensuring that those who profit from construction projects also take responsibility for making sure workers are paid what they are owed. If Oregon is serious about protecting workers and stopping wage theft, this bill needs to pass.

We can't just wait for the government to fix this on its own—the industry needs to take responsibility. The solution isn't reducing access to justice. The solution is simple: Pay workers what they have earned.

PROTECT OUR WORKERS. PROTECT OUR FAMILIES. PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES.

John Snider
Rickreall, OR
Snidley15@yahoo.com