



# WESTERN STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

Frank Hawk

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Sean Hartranft

President



59 Spokane, WA

82 Great Falls, MT

96 NW Millwrights

February 25, 2025

196 Pile Drivers, WA

206 Seattle, WA

213 Los Angeles, CA

323 So. Los Angeles, CA

360 So. Puget Sound, WA

425 No. Puget Sound, WA

503 Portland, OR

541 Eugene, OR

555 Colorado

562 Long Beach, CA

619 San Diego, CA

635 Boise, ID

661 Sylmar, CA

714 Buena Park, CA

721 Whittier, CA

743 Bakersfield, CA

801 Utah

805 Camarillo, CA

808 Idaho Falls, ID

909 Ontario, CA

951 Riverside, CA

971 Reno, NV

1136 Kettle Falls, WA

1243 Fairbanks, AK

1281 Anchorage, AK

1319 New Mexico

1607 Millwrights

1912 Arizona

1977 Las Vegas, NV

2520 Pile Drivers & Divers, AK

2761 McCleary, WA

2851 La Grande, OR

2949 Roseburg, OR

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

## RE: Support for SB 426 – Ending Wage Theft in Oregon’s Construction Industry

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

I am writing on behalf of the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters (WSRCC), which proudly represents over 10,000 hardworking tradespeople across Oregon, to express our strong **SUPPORT** for SB 426, a critical piece of legislation aimed at addressing the rampant wage theft plaguing Oregon’s construction industry.

As representatives of thousands of skilled tradespeople who build Oregon’s infrastructure, we witness firsthand how wage theft and labor exploitation harm workers, undermine industry integrity, distort fair competition, and exacerbate the state’s workforce and housing crises.

The evidence is compelling and alarming – as construction has emerged as a hotspot for wage theft, particularly in the residential sector. According to the Oregon Center for Public Policy, construction ranks second statewide for wage theft claims relative to workforce size. Federal and state enforcement agencies consistently uncover cases where unscrupulous contractors deprive workers of rightful wages, overtime pay, and benefits. The Department of Labor has recovered nearly \$1 million from Oregon contractors on federally funded projects, while the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) recently settled a \$193,000 wage theft case affecting 26 workers.

Despite these enforcement actions, wage theft persists as a business model for many bad actors. The problem has grown so severe that BOLI has been forced to limit its investigations due to budget constraints, declining to accept cases where workers earn more than \$53,000 annually. Meanwhile, taxpayers shoulder the burden of these unlawful labor practices, with nearly half of Oregon’s construction workers’ families relying on safety net programs at a cost of \$710 million per year. Further compounding the issue, fraudulent payroll practices and worker misclassification cost the state over \$112 million annually—funds that could otherwise support essential services like schools, roads, and public safety.



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SB 426 provides a meaningful solution by ensuring accountability throughout the contracting chain. The bill will prevent unscrupulous labor brokers and dishonest subcontractors from profiting at workers' expense while allowing responsible contractors to compete on a level playing field. The industry must take responsibility for its workforce and eliminate practices that degrade wages, working conditions, and career opportunities for the next generation of skilled tradespeople.

Oregon cannot achieve its housing and workforce development goals without first addressing the exploitation driving workers away from the industry. We strongly urge the committee to pass SB 426 to hold all marketplace participants accountable and restore fairness and dignity to the construction workforce.

Sincerely,

John Hanna  
Director of Political and Government Affairs

Representing Carpenters in Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska and Oregon

**WESTERN STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS**

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