



from the desk of

REPRESENTATIVE LUCETTA ELMER

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Oregon House Passes Senate Bill 426B After 2.5 Hours of Debate

Salem, Ore. – Today, the Oregon House passed [Senate Bill 426B](#) which would make Oregon the only state in the nation that holds owners liable for wages they already paid. While proponents of the bill claim this legislation solves wage theft in construction, it simply shifts the liability from bad actors to unknowing upper tier contractors and small business owners.

“At a time when Oregon’s unfriendly business climate is well-documented – why would we add another deterrent to businesses that does not even get the heart of the issue? Under this bill, businesses that own their own property can be held liable for unpaid wages by subcontractors for work done on their property,” **said Representative Elmer on the House floor.** “Senate Bill 426B does not fix the problem, it simply shifts the blame.”

After rejecting a series of common sense amendments in the House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee, House Republicans proposed a [Minority Report](#) as an alternative approach to addressing [the heart of the issue](#). The Minority Report would have removed all owners from liability, aligning Oregon with all other states, and provided a pathway to target unlicensed construction labor brokers.

House Republicans made motions to refer the legislation back to the House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards and to the House Rules Committee for further consideration. Both motions failed.

Some of the continued opponents to Senate Bill 426B include:

- National Association Of Minority Contractors Of Oregon
- LatinoBuilt
- Oregon State Chamber Of Commerce
- Keizer Chamber Of Commerce
- Portland Metro Chamber Of Commerce
- Bend Chamber Of Commerce
- Washington County Chamber Of Commerce
- Tigard Chamber Of Commerce
- Albany Chamber Of Commerce
- Roseburg Area Chamber Of Commerce

- Lake County Chamber Of Commerce
- Associated General Contractors
- Oregon Home Builders Association
- Oregon Concrete & Aggregate Producers Association
- Oregon Realtors
- Oregon Business And Industry
- Independent Electrical Contractors Of Oregon
- Oregon Retail Council
- Northwest Grocery Retail Association
- Northwest Underground Utility Contractors Association
- Multifamily NW
- Oregon Liability Reform Coalition
- National Federation Of Independent Business
- Asphalt Pavement Association Of Oregon
- Building Owners And Managers Association
- NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association
- Oregon Restaurant And Lodging Association
- Manufacturing Council Of Oregon
- Oregon Broadband Association
- Oregon Auto Dealers Association
- Oregon Wine Council
- Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association
- Oregon Cable Telecommunications Association
- Oregon Forest & Industries Council

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