



April 12, 2023

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation – HB 2057 A-Engrossed

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I stand before you in opposition to House Bill 2057, which seeks to make contractors jointly and severally liable in civil or administrative actions for unpaid wages and other benefit payments or contributions of subcontractors' unrepresented employees.

This bill is an affront to small businesses and entrepreneurs in this state, who are already struggling with the economic ramifications of the pandemic. It would put an additional burden on them by forcing them to take responsibility for the payment of wages, benefits, and contributions that should rightfully be paid by their subcontractors. This could lead to increased costs for contractors that are passed down onto consumers or potentially put them out of business altogether.

Furthermore, this bill does nothing to address the underlying issue of unfair labor practices. Instead, it simply shifts the burden from one party (the subcontractor) to another (the contractor). This may provide a short-term solution but does nothing to solve the root problem.

Finally, I would like to point out that this bill also puts third parties at risk of being held liable for unpaid wages or contributions not made as part of employee compensation. This could create a situation where third parties face potential liability without any prior knowledge or involvement in a dispute between two separate parties.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote no on House Bill 2057 on the grounds that it unfairly punishes small businesses and entrepreneurs while providing little protection against unfair labor practices.

Best,

  
Representative Bobby Levy, HD 58