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RoseburgChamber.com

May 6, 2025

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the businesses, organizations and individuals we represent throughout Douglas County, I respectfully request you oppose SB 426, as harmful to homeowners, building contractors and small businesses providing subcontractor services.

SB 426 would make homeowners liable for the unpaid wages of subcontractors' employees, even though the property owner has fully paid for the project. The bill also proposes that general contractors be held liable for the unpaid wages of a subcontractor's employees, even though the subcontractor has been paid. This will only discourage contractors from hiring emerging small-business subcontractors due to the increased financial risk.

Wage theft is deplorable and unacceptable. The chamber understands the tremendous injury and adverse impact it has on workers. We recognize that SB 426 is an attempt to solve wage theft in construction, but causing harm to innocent property owners is certainly not the solution. The summary of this measure states the need for this bill is because "BOLI has a significant backlog for wage claims." BOLI is legally responsible for handling wage claims and enforcing labor laws. This "backlog" sounds like a BOLI problem, not a burden to be foisted on unsuspecting property owners or reputable contractors. The obligation lies with state agencies that are charged with holding employers, which includes subcontractors, accountable for criminal acts (such as wage theft), when committed.

We urge your "No" vote on SB 426. SB 426 does nothing to solve the bad acts or remove the perpetrators responsible for those acts. There must be a better solution to ensure those legitimately liable are held accountable without punishing the innocent. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Fromdahl".

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO



To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.