

## Bob Ferguson ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

February 6, 2024

## Important Message to Washington State Chambers of Commerce:

I am writing to alert you to a recent Consumer Protection Act enforcement action I filed against a scammer targeting Washington small business owners.

This case is part of my Small Business Protection Initiative, which has recovered millions of dollars for Washington businesses harmed by unfair and deceptive practices.

Washington Labor Law Poster Service is deceptively posing as a governmental agency and sending hundreds of thousands of solicitations to Washington businesses. They advertise an Olympia address, but are based out of Michigan. They mail the letters in envelopes with threatening language about legal consequences for not immediately purchasing the advertised poster products at a cost of \$79.50 or more. These posters are available from government agencies free of charge.

This scam likely targeted some of your members. My team has learned that more than 1,500 Washington businesses have fallen for this scam – and the number might be much higher. Please note:

- 1) A sample of the scam is included with this letter. Please alert your members so they are not harmed and do not pay for posters that can be downloaded from government agencies for free.
- 2) We are seeking to recover every penny Washington businesses paid to this scammer, plus interest. If you suspect you have been the target of this scam, or similar scams, please contact the Attorney General's Office. You can file a complaint online at <a href="atg.wa.gov/file-complaint">atg.wa.gov/file-complaint</a> or call the office toll-free at 1-800-551-4636.

As you know, small business owners work hard to comply with all of their responsibilities, which can make them vulnerable to deceptive tactics like this one.

Labor Law Poster Service's owners are repeat violators. We filed a successful lawsuit against them in 2014. Despite paying over one million dollars in penalties in that case, including full financial restitution for impacted businesses, these scammers continue to target small businesses in Washington and around the country. Thank you for helping me to alert your members about this harmful scam and the opportunities for financial restitution through my office's legal work on behalf of the people.

Sincerely,

BOB FERGUSON

Washington State Attorney General

## Labor Law Poster Service sent more than 300,000 deceptive solicitations targeting small businesses



