The MAIN STREET
Alliance of Oregon

a big vision for small business

May 15, 2013

To: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
From: Main Street Alliance of Oregon
Re: Support for HB 2977

Co-chairs Jenson and Johnson,

Main Street Alliance of Oregon urges you to support and vote favorably on House Bill 2977.

The members of Main Street Alliance of Oregon are small businesses ranging from realtors to retailers and financial consultants to family farms. We are a network of small businesses statewide, with 1200 businesses on our current roster.

As small business owners, we oppose wage theft. It creates an uneven playing field for employers who pay living wages and provide benefits. We must compete against those who do not.

The increasing practice of mislabeling of employees as independent contractors also threatens employers who follow the rules. Misclassification bars employees of the right to minimum wage and overtime, unemployment and workers' compensation. State taxes are not withheld. Again, employers who do not misclassify their employees are undercut by those who do.

Main Street Alliance of Oregon also opposes wage theft because it harms our communities. Wage theft denies income and commerce to our communities. It lowers consumption and spending that directly affects business. And it also corrodes the well-being of the cities and town where we reside.

Wage theft means a race to the bottom for workers, businesses, and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2977. We urge you do approve this bill and forward it with a do pass recommendation.

Yours respectfully,

Jim Houser

Mark S. Kellenbeck

Jim Houser, co-chair
Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland

Mark Kellenbeck, co-chair
BrainJoy LLC, Medford

Main Street Alliance of Oregon, 126 NE Alberta St. Suite 202, Portland, OR 97211

Main Street Alliance of Oregon Statewide Leadership Circle

Mark Kellenbeck – Co-Chair, Brain Joy, LLC – Medford
Jim Houser – Co-Chair, Hawthorne Auto Clinic – Portland
Jose Gonzalez, Tu Casa Real Estate – Salem
Steven McGrath, Sustainable Solutions Unlimited – Portland
Rhonda Ealy, Strictly Organic Coffee – Bend
Mike Sumner, Case Automotive – Woodburn
Deborah Field, Paper Jam Press – Portland
Lee Mercer, Bed & Biscuits, LLC – Silverton
Michael Barthmus, Doppio Coffee + Lounge – Hood River
Monte Beckman, Saddlemaker – Pendleton
Julie Fitzgerald Bodfish, Fitzgerald Flowers – La Grande
Roy John Bolduc, Roy John Designer Goldsmith – Salem
Corey Burden, Cedar House Media – Beaverton
Barb Campbell, Wabi Sabi – Bend
George Comalli, Giants Gym – Portland
Anthony Corig, Direct Music Source – La Grande
David V. Cramer, Andrews & Cramer, LLC – Lincoln City
Jim Curtis, On The Wall Inc. – Medford
Jossi Davidson, Attorney at Law – Silverton
Christopher DeVito, DeVito Insurance Agency, LLC – Silverton
Bill Dickey, Morel Ink – Portland
Tiana Fearl, Covet Salon – Beaverton
Rennie Ferris, Ferris Landscaping – Newport
Doug Fick, Broadway Floral – Portland
John Fleming, Local Insurance, La Grande
Jason Freilinger, Freilinger Electronics, Inc – Silverton
Merrie Gaye, Grape Street Gardens – Medford
Jim Gilbert, Northwoods Nursery – Molalla
Scott Gould, Elemental Arts – Portland
Wendy Grace, Arrowhead Chocolates – Joseph
Rex Hagans, hazelnut farmer – rural Clackamas County
Carol Hanks, Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co – Pendleton
Steve Hanrahan, Mirador Community Store – Portland
Jed Hansen, Well Read Books – Waldport
Robert Harris, Harris Law Firm, PC – Hillsboro
Paul V. Hendershott, Guitar Teacher – Grants Pass
Walter Hunt, New Odyssey – Eugene
Tina Jacobsen, Jacobsen's Books & More – Hillsboro
Greg King, Glory Days Antiques of Medford – Medford
JoAnne Kohler, Tigress Books – Monmouth
Nancie Koerber, REconomy – Central Point
G. Victor Madge and Dana Smith, G.Victor Madge Architect, Inc – Silverton
Tamara B. Maher, Attorney at Law – Portland
Kim Malek, Salt & Straw – Portland
Catherine Matthias, Stewart Jones Designs – Joseph
R.J. McHatton, Inventive Productions – Bend
Gloria McMurtry, Talking Drums/Reflections Book Store – Portland
Bob Meyer, Ocean Beaches Glass Blowing & Gallery – Seal Rock
Jenny Mowe, Sweet Wife Baking – Baker City
Michael Nagle, Upper Cut Barber Shop – The Dalles
Mindy Patterson, Mindy's Needlepoint Factory – Eugene
John Ramer, Backscratcherz Computerz – Tillamook
John Riegel, Jack of All Beads – McMinnville
Brian Setzler, CPA, TriLibrium – Portland
Bill and Paige Shumway, Pegasus Frame Studio & Gallery – Corvallis
Denise Sprengelmeyer, Modern – Eugene
Will Telbany, NY Bagel & Bistro – Monmouth
Yeshi Thompson, Road to Tibet – Portland
Peter Tofalvi, Abacus Energy Solutions, LLC – Tigard
Paul Tostberg, Tostberg Interprises, Inc. – Corvallis
Evelyn Tunstall, Moondancer – Tillamook

Main Street Alliance of Oregon Statewide Leadership Circle members are business owners who support the general policy goals and mission of Main Street Alliance but may not necessarily endorse a particular MSAO policy or bill endorsement.