

March 2, 2017

Western Machine  
P O Box 52  
401 Stables Road  
Gardiner, OR 97467

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the CEO and owner of Western Machine. I have just recently purchased this company which has been in business for the last 15 years...successfully. I have plans to continue and expand my 4 person shop in the coming months. We provide services to the fishing, farming and timber industry to name just a few.

The Reedsport city manager, Jonathan Wright, recently made me aware of HB (2902) and the potential dire forecast for the Douglas County marine industry. Along with North River Boat, Fred Wahl Marine, Giddings Boat Works, Reedsport Machine and Tar Heel Aluminum, Western Machine could be negatively impacted by the ability of municipalities being able to directly compete with private employers, as laid out in bullet point (8). As ports are tax exempt, subsidized by tax proceeds and able to apply for many more grant opportunities than any private business, this would constitute an extremely unfair advantage by allowing ports to operate shipyards and build watercraft in direct competition with the private sector. Giving them an extremely unfair advantage over the private sector, which has worked diligently to create and maintain jobs in your district.

This measure, therefore, is ill conceived and harmful to our local economy. I respectfully ask for your support in defeating this measure.

Thank you for your time and dedication in serving Douglas County and the State of Oregon, it is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal Reiser', written over a horizontal line.

Neal Reiser  
CEO  
Western Machine