

Dear JCCR Members,

My name is Josiah Pratt and I am the Plant Engineer at Ash Grove Cement's location in Durkee, OR. I support the efforts being made by the JCCR Committee, however, if House Bill 2020 is passed without amendment, it could cause an end to my employment. I am writing this testimony to shine light on the plant's sublime work culture and their mindset of innovation in sustainability.

#### *Progressive Work Culture*

Ash Grove's progressive management style allows engineers such as me to perform the toughest projects without feeling the stress that is associated with the field. I feel comfortable approaching my superiors with a problem, even corporate Vice Presidents, knowing that I will receive help towards a solution. This management style has led to time flexibility matched by few other employers.

As the sole-provider of a young family, time off is important to me; Ash Grove management realizes this. They have implemented a 4-day work schedule that allows me to focus full time on the job while allowing enough time at home to spend with my wife and 2-year-old son; It also gives precious time to welcome our first daughter to the world in May and introduce her to the gorgeous Oregon Coast.

#### *Innovation in Sustainability*

Innovation with respect to sustainability has been engraved into my character through my heritage. My grandfather was a part of the team that played a key role developing pellets used to heat millions of homes today. Ash Grove continues my dream of sustainability through their countless innovative solutions. From finding solutions to day-to-day jobs, to keeping Oregon's air clean, the Durkee facility is always looking to improve. I am proud to be part of a company that is not satisfied by idly watching the world change, but makes an effort to actively to be that change.

#### *Conclusion*

Ash Grove's code of ethics, unique management style and genuine care of employees and community makes it shine compared to other companies. It is truly a treasure that is often missed in a blink of an eye while flying by on I-84. Oregon's drive to protect the environment coupled with Ash Grove's innovative ability gives a unique opportunity to find a solution that may be lost if Ash Grove moves out of state. Please exempt Ash Grove Cement from House Bill 2020 to keep their business and allow me to raise a fifth generation in the beautiful state of Oregon.

Thank you,

### **Josiah Pratt**

Plant Engineer I

**Ash Grove Cement Company**

P: (541) 877-2617

C: (208) 697-7995

E: [josiah.pratt@ashgrove.com](mailto:josiah.pratt@ashgrove.com)